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United States  
Department of  
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Forest Service

Northeastern  
Area

# Urban and Community Forestry Achievements in 1997



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Vital Communities Through Healthy Ecosystems



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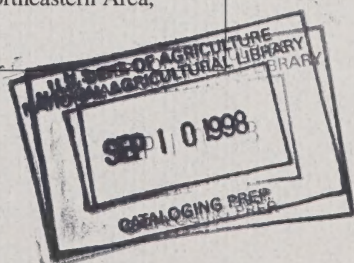


# Urban and Community Forestry Achievements in 1997

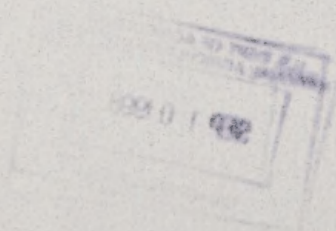
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Produced by Alex Brown, Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with Bob Neville at the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry.



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Dear Friend:

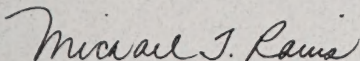
It gives me great pleasure to report these accomplishments for the Urban and Community Forestry Program in the Northeastern Area for Fiscal Year 1997. This represents government reinvention at its best. The activities highlighted here reflect a true collaboration between government at the Federal, State, and local level interacting with non-governmental organizations and grassroots groups to solve local problems through collective action. I believe this is an effective model for government support of local initiatives. After you have read through this document, I hope you will agree with me.

Urban areas in this country continue to deteriorate, especially the older industrial cities that characterize the Northeast. The problems are complex, the solutions even more so. Natural resource managers, for a long time, did not recognize their role in arresting the demise of urban America. This has changed during the decade of the '90s. The international movement to achieve sustainability by balancing growth and development depends on conservation of soil, air, water, wildlife, and natural vegetative cover. This is especially important in heavily populated areas where the loss of forest cover leads to flooding, erosion, and pollution that is both costly and unhealthy.

This report describes the organization, the resources, and the activities that are mobilized through the Urban and Community Forestry Program to address sustainability in urban areas. Federal activities such as the Urban Resources Partnership, Chicago Wilderness, Northeastern Pennsylvania Project, and Revitalizing Baltimore are addressing coalition building and institutional change to deal with long term issues such as sustainability and capacity building. Three Centers of Excellence at Amherst, Massachusetts; Chicago, Illinois; and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania are serving regional needs for information and technical assistance in the application of advanced technology. Thousands of volunteers were mobilized throughout the Northeastern area and the District of Columbia to deal with local issues and concerns. Highlights demonstrate the grassroots nature of the Urban and Community Forestry Program.

Please take the time to review the accomplishments illustrated here for Fiscal Year 1997. I feel confident you will conclude that Urban and Community Forestry is an efficient and effective use of Federal tax dollars.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Rains  
Area Director





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# Executive Summary

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Urban and Community Forestry in the Northeastern Area achieved significant results in Fiscal Year 1997, improving the environment and the quality of life for thousands of urban residents. This was achieved through the efforts of hundreds of people at the Federal, State, and local level working together to identify and solve local problems.

Trees, forests, and related natural resources are the basic tools of the program. When managed appropriately, these resources contribute substantially to the well-being and long-term sustainability of urban communities. Benefits include clean air and water, habitats for wildlife, useable open space, and a pleasant, visually pleasing environment. Unfortunately, the potential benefits of natural resources are frequently overlooked in urban settings. Integrating these into the planning and revitalization of our communities is the vision of the Urban and Community Forestry Program. Our work is guided by four interrelated goals: Awareness, Outreach and Environmental Equity, Partnerships, and Comprehensive Natural Resources Management.

There are two components in the delivery of Urban and Community Forestry Assistance to local communities—a Federal program and a State program. Funding from Congress to the Forest Service is prorated regionally according to population and the number of communities. Of the funds coming to the Northeastern Area, a portion is used to sustain a Federal technical assistance program and various Congressional initiatives; the remainder is distributed pro rata to the States.

Forest Service personnel in three field offices located in sub-regions of the Northeastern Area provide administrative support and technical assistance to the twenty Northeastern Area States and the District of Columbia. This includes oversight for special initiatives initiated by Congress to address specific urban natural resource restoration issues such as Chicago Wilderness and Revitalizing Baltimore. It includes a pilot project initiated in the Department of Agriculture known as the Urban Resources Partnership (URP) Program. URP is designed to facilitate cooperation among Federal agencies in addressing local community natural resource problems. Six cities in the northeast have been designated as URP cities.

Another source of Federal urban and community forestry funds is provided through the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC). This group, which is advisory to the Secretary of Agriculture, provides funding through competitive grants to communities and groups that are addressing key national issues relating to urban natural resources management. Eight of these grants were awarded throughout the Northeastern Area in Fiscal Year (FY) 1997.

Over six and one-half million dollars was distributed among the twenty Northeastern Area States and the District of Columbia in FY 1997. Of this total, each State and the District received \$150,000 base allocation to conform to Federal requirements of having a full-time program coordinator, volunteer coordinator, an active advisory council, and a current five-year plan. The remaining funds, distributed pro rata, are used by the States to support local community activities. Some States use the funds for internal staffing and provide technical and financial assistance to communities as requested. Others allocate the Federal funds to grants-in-aid projects where communities compete for financial assistance. In FY 1997, the program produced significant accomplishments that address a wide range of urban issues and involve thousands of hours of citizen volunteer labor.

# America's Urban Opportunities

Investment in appropriate management of our natural resources contributes to meeting the many challenges facing America's urban communities. Natural resources include air, water, soil, vegetation, and wildlife. Integration of these resources into the planning for the revitalization and development of our communities is an opportunity to address the social, economic, and environmental health of all Americans in a comprehensive manner.

Education, financial investment, and an active citizenry are essential to realize the benefits natural resources provide. Comprehensive natural resources management is an opportunity to assure sustainable community revitalization and development.

## *Managing natural resources will:*

- ★ Improve Water Quality
- ★ Improve Air Quality
- ★ Reduce Pollution
- ★ Improve Community Health



- ★ Lead to Comprehensive Land Use and Management
- ★ Promote Sustainable Development
- ★ Increase Recreational Opportunities

- ★ Improve Stormwater Management
- ★ Reduce Infrastructure Costs
- ★ Reduce Flooding



- ★ Reduce Energy Costs
- ★ Increase Property Values

# Natural Resources Stewardship

Natural resources invigorate our communities, maintain stability, provide a sense of belonging, and sustain our cities as desirable, healthy places.

In order to benefit from the opportunities natural resources provide, they must be managed effectively and included in all aspects of land use planning.

*Management of urban natural resources enhances the benefits of trees.*

## *Trees and vegetation...*



- ★ ...reduce stormwater discharge by up to 40 percent.



- ★ ...increase property value by up to 20 percent.

- ★ ...reduce home heating and cooling costs by up to 30 percent, potentially saving the Nation almost \$1.5 billion a year.



- ★ ...increase community pride.
- ★ ...purify the air and reduce particulate airborne pollution by up to 80 percent.



# Vision

Our vision is of healthy, sustainable communities that incorporate the many cost-effective benefits of natural systems and processes. This will be achieved through partnerships, community outreach programs, and research, as well as technical assistance, educational projects, and grant funding. Each citizen must be persuaded to accept responsibility for the stewardship of the natural resources that sustain our collective well-being.

Effectively managed natural resources function as a natural filter for pollution: they can be viewed as the heart and lungs of our communities.

These natural resources are water, air, soil, vegetation, and wildlife that form ecosystems. Urban ecosystems incorporate human activity which dominates natural systems and processes. The capacity for urban natural resources to filter pollution is linked to the care and attention afforded to the natural resources base in the process of urbanization.

A useful example is to visualize urban ecosystems at the watershed level. Every citizen lives within a watershed. Their individual and collective actions alter the natural processes that maintain essential biological diversity and purify air and water within that watershed: this is the water we use to drink and bathe, but into which we drain our roads and parking lots. Our challenge is to protect the connectivity that exists within watersheds and to show, through effective systems-based design, how these watersheds can maintain themselves in a viable, healthy state for the benefit of all.



*Our vision is of high quality, sustainable communities,  
which is achieved through comprehensive urban  
natural resources stewardship by a committed society.*

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# Goals

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## Awareness

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Create a responsible public and responsive government by promoting an understanding of stewardship. Emphasize the social, economic, and environmental values of trees, forests, and related natural resources in cities and communities to the public and others.

## Outreach and Environmental Equity

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Expand program participation by involving minorities, people of color, American Indian nations, people with disabilities, and under-served populations in all aspects of urban and community forestry.

## Partnerships

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Create and maintain partnerships that strengthen cooperative working relationships and integrate diverse activities among public and private agencies and organizations at Federal, State, and local levels.

## Comprehensive Natural Resource Management

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Implement an ecological approach that integrates bio-physical, social, and economic considerations to support healthy, sustainable communities.





## **Program Components**

Since 1978, the Urban and Community Forestry Program has funded Federal, State, and local natural resources management programs through technical assistance.

The Northeastern Area Program for 1997 consisted of six components:

- 1. The State Program**
  - 2. The Federal Program**
  - 3. National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grants**
  - 4. Congressional Initiatives**
  - 5. Urban Resources Partnership (URP)**
  - 6. Federal Financial Assistance**
- 

### **1. The State Program**

The State Program delivers funding and technical assistance to individual communities and organizations at the local level. Each State chooses how to use the Federal funds according to local needs and priorities. Federal funding is monitored and evaluated on a yearly basis. Annual reports are produced that relate annual accomplishments to the goals and objectives in each State's strategic plan.

Following are highlights from the annual accomplishments reports prepared by the twenty States and the District of Columbia included in the Northeastern Area.

## Connecticut

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Although 58 percent of Connecticut is forested, 80 percent of the population live in urban and suburban environments. A century of insect and disease problems, neglect of mature trees, and few resources to plant new trees left the urban and community forests of Connecticut in decline. The Connecticut Urban Forest Council was formed in 1989 to reverse this decline.

### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Education  
Grant Aid  
Volunteer Programs

### Summary of Activities

Connecticut continued to reinforce its education program with a series of workshops, seminars, training programs, and the Council's annual conference.

The Federal grant program for 1997 resulted in the planting of 584 balled and burlapped trees in 19 communities.

Three communities completed tree inventories, and two management plans were written in 1997. This increases the number of communities with partial or complete inventories from 5 to 39 in the last ten years.

The volunteer training program developed by David Bloniarz at UMASS has proven highly

successful. Volunteers who receive at least 12 hours of training have a 95 percent accuracy rate in determining tree species, size, and condition.

Bob Ricard, State Volunteer Coordinator, wrote and published two new publications: *Effective Communications for Natural Resource Volunteers and Professionals* and *Effective Meetings for Natural Resource Volunteers and Professionals*.

### Highlights

#### Ridgefield

The Tree Committee of the town of Ridgefield wrote and published a *Tree Book*. The book describes the community's tree resources and provides management recommendations for both public and privately owned trees. This book is available to every citizen of Ridgefield.



Tree Inventory in Wilton, CT

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Stamford

The city of Stamford saved \$20,000 by using trained community volunteers to identify and inventory trees in three neighborhoods. These volunteers donated 1,088 hours to manage this vital natural resource. The inventory will be entered into the city's GIS database maintained by the Environmental Protection Board.

## New Haven

The New Haven Ecology Project, Inc. used the services of a Yale University student to work with city teenagers in developing a trail system to the summit overlook of West Rock Park. A section of the trail was marked with interpretive signage, and a sign was erected at the entrance to the trails at Springside Community Farm.

## Meskwaka

A fifth reunion workshop was held at this year's Meskwaka training at Connecticut College in New London. Fifteen existing Meskwaka cooperators and twenty new cooperators gathered to renew old acquaintances and learn about innovations in urban and community forest management. The Meskwaka Tree Project continues to produce top quality volunteers. It is estimated that the 127 Meskwaka cooperators have now donated over 4,226 hours to urban and community forestry activities.



Department of Environmental Protection Forestry  
at Rock the Earth Day, 1997

### Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$284.7	\$194.5	\$229.7	\$213.2

## **Delaware**

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Communities within Delaware are experiencing growth and expansion. Land use changes affect tree resources as woodlands and agricultural land are lost to commercial and residential development. In order to maintain viable cities and towns, there is a need for the Urban and Community Forestry Program to assist with proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forests, and other related natural resources.

### **Program Components**

Education and Outreach  
Technical Assistance  
Partnership Building  
Volunteer Programs  
Tree City USA

### **Highlights**

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program participates in the review process for the State **Land Use Planning Act**. The program addresses the importance of natural resources in the shaping of Delaware's future.

**Texaco and the National Tree Trust tree planting project** completed its second year in Delaware. Over the last two years, 17,500 seedlings were planted with the assistance of citizen volunteers.

### **Village of Arden**

**A new partnership was formed** between the Urban and Community Forestry Program, the National Park Service Regional Office in Philadelphia, and the village of Arden **to develop a comprehensive plan that maintains the natural and cultural resources of the community.** This unique community was designed in the Garden City concept and maintains the only single tax government in the state. The residents are leaseholders that are extremely community oriented. The surrounding urbanization created environmental and cultural issues for Arden. The National Park Service is pursuing Historic Preservation Landmark status for the community. The Urban and Community Forestry Program gave extensive technical and grant assistance toward developing the plan for the community's open spaces.

### **Delaware City**

Poly Tech High School and the Urban and Community Forestry Program joined forces to **conduct a street tree inventory in Delaware City.** Students from the horticulture department participated in the project as part of their Masters of Technology diploma project. In addition to a street tree inventory, **the partners produced a tree identification guide for city workers and a maintenance plan for hazardous trees.** As a bonus, students gained an awareness of urban forestry issues, practices, and career opportunities. Delaware City now has current information about the health, diversity, and condition of its street trees.



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Dover

The Urban and Community Forestry Program awarded a new **Community Planning Grant** to the city of Dover in Kent County to obtain the **CITYgreen GIS software** and apply it to the city's development review process. The

city planning department used the software to analyze storm water management benefits by preserving trees at three different development sites. In addition, the city planning department recognized the benefits of its tree preservation ordinance.

### Robbins Hose Station #2 - pre development Data Sheet

Image  
Name: dover30a.tif

**Study Site**  
Total Area: 1.97 ac  
Grass Area: 1.20 ac (61%)  
Imperv Area: 0.57 ac (29%)  
Building Area: 0.43 ac (22%)  
Number of Homes: 0  
Hydrologic Soil: D  
Percent Slope: 0.5  
Forest Percent: 0  
Rural Use Type: 1A  
Precipitation: 3.40 in  
Runoff Volume: 2.00 in

**Tree Statistics**  
Tree Count: 57  
Canopy Area: 0.27 ac (13%)  
Avg DBH: 13.1 in  
Avg Age Class: 1.0  
Avg Ht Class: 2.1  
Avg Health Class: 3.9  
Number of Species: 6  
Dominant Species: RW (40%)  
Overstory (VBIU): 0% (00%)

**Carbon Benefits**  
Carbon Storage: 11.40 tons  
Carbon Sequestration: 0.00 tons/yr



**Energy Benefits**  
Total Savings: \$-  
Savings per Home: \$-  
Total kWh Savings: -  
kWh Savings per Home: -

**Stormwater Benefits**  
Runoff Reduction: 0.0%Total Off-Competition Increase: 0.0%Peak Flow Reduction: 7.0%Available Storage: 1953 cubic feet

### Robbins Hose Station #2 - post development Data Sheet

Image  
Name: dover30a.tif

**Study Site**  
Total Area: 1.97 ac  
Grass Area: 1.00 ac (51%)  
Imperv Area: 0.57 ac (29%)  
Building Area: 0.43 ac (22%)  
Number of Homes: 0  
Hydrologic Soil: D  
Percent Slope: 0.5  
Forest Percent: 0  
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kWh Savings per Home: -

**Stormwater Benefits**  
Runoff Reduction: 0.0%Total Off-Competition Increase: 0.0%Peak Flow Reduction: 7.0%Available Storage: 1953 cubic feet

### CityGreen Pre Development and Post Development Site Analysis in Dover, DE.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

### The State Program

FY 1994

FY 1995

FY 1996

FY 1997

\$167.0

\$163.7

\$174.7

\$170.5

## District of Columbia

**Contact: Sandra B. Hill**  
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**DC Department of Public Works**  
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The Urban Forestry Program (UFP) promotes, on a city-wide basis, the participation of volunteers and organizations working collaboratively with the District government and the Urban Forestry Council to improve the city's natural resources.

### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Partnership Building  
Volunteer Programs  
Education and Outreach  
Financial Assistance

### Highlights

#### Tree Planting

The Urban Forestry Council (UFC) and the Trees and Landscape Division provided over 200 street trees to community groups.

#### Education

The Department of Recreation and Parks has established an educational environmental center. The center provides practical and classroom activities for the city's youth.

#### Workshops

Four ecosystem workshops for public school teachers were provided by the University of the District of Columbia. The workshops provided basic information on tree care, soil, water, and other related environmental issues. The teachers received one continuing education credit.

#### Volunteer Programs

Ethnic and economic diversity among volunteers is expanding.

#### Grant Funding

The UFC provided grants to five community and volunteer organizations for urban forestry programs.

#### Tree Inventory

The University of the District of Columbia's biology department is updating the Trees and Landscape Division's computerized tree inventory data system. Graduate biology students are conducting comprehensive street tree inventory surveys in selected neighborhoods throughout the District.



**Sweet Georgia Area Neighborhood  
Association tree planting event**

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT



A tree planting event held by Funds for the Community Future (a non-profit organization)

## USDA Plan of Action for the District of Columbia

In response to the call for action in the **President's State of the Union** address, the US Department of Agriculture has developed an innovative plan to renew the Nation's Capital. The **Plan of Action** builds on successful existing programs and creates new ones by establishing partnerships among community groups, local government, and Federal agencies. The Plan of Action for the District of Columbia consists of three specific initiatives: (1) **The Urban Environmental Resource Initiative**, (2) **The Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Initiative**, and (3) **The Citizen Service and Volunteerism Initiative**.

The Plan of Action addresses ten social and environmental themes through forty planned action items.

Through this Plan of Action, several programs and activities will take place over the next three years. **For example, the USDA will help develop environmental laboratories** at four elementary schools in the District of Columbia. The laboratories will help children become more aware of the importance of their natural resources.

### Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$324.9	\$431.8	\$218.0	\$218.5

## Illinois

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### Program Components

Technical Assistance

Statewide Workshops and Training

Tree City USA Program

U&CF Grant Assistance

Regional U&CF Council Operations

Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter

Illinois Arbor Day Poster Contest

Facilitating Networking

### Highlights

**Federal funds in the amount of \$100,000 leveraged over \$100,000 in local dollars** and supported community efforts in tree inventories and management plans, tree risk management plans, tree planting, tree ordinance development, tree board establishment, wood utilization programs, employee training, and public education.

**Eight Regional Urban and Community Forestry Councils** conducted special projects and initiatives across the state. These include providing U&CF materials to local libraries to supplement the **TREE-MENDOUS** summer program; Train the Trainer sessions,

promoting the **TREETURE Environmental Education Program**; Public Service Announcements to promote tree care; poster and information flyer on tree selection and planting; regional tree planting activities; regional nursery in cooperation with the National Tree Trust; and adopting local communities and assisting in developing local tree programs.

Over 1,000 posters from 41 schools were submitted as entries to Illinois' **Arbor Day Poster Contest**. The top ten winners received \$300 in awards.

*The Prairie Tree Companion Newsletter* provides up-to-date information on resources available for natural resources management efforts and urban forestry issues. The newsletter is **distributed to 2,800 individuals** and government units **Statewide**.

The **Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program** helps Illinois citizens and local units of government network with other State and Federal agencies to **address their natural resources issues**. With this networking, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has assisted in bringing 20,190 seedlings and \$3,000 in tree planting grants from the National Tree Trust to Illinois citizen groups.

**Special Federal Partnerships.** Two Urban Resources Partnership (URP) projects exist in Illinois. IDNR's State Forester, Urban Conservation Program Administrator, and other Forestry staff provided substantial technical assistance to the URP projects. IDNR also provided funding to support their URP coordinator's position.



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

Illinois is second in the nation for its number of **Tree City USA Communities**. Twenty-nine communities received the **Tree City USA Growth Award** for expanding their program to include special natural resources related initiatives.

Illinois has been successful in efforts to **promote volunteerism**. In cooperation with Southern Illinois University, a full-time U&CF technical assistance and volunteer coordinator was hired.

The IDNR U&CF Program provides sponsorship and funding for the Illinois Arborists Association; Morton Arboretum's Anniversary Garden Exhibit; hazard tree assessment training and tree care training for IDNR and Chicago forestry staff; *Los Arboles de la Ciudad*, a tree care booklet published in Spanish; and the University of Illinois plant health care workshop.



Community tree planting

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$561.6	\$377.5	\$438.8	\$541.9

## Indiana

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e-mail: inurbfor@indy.net  
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### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Grant Funding  
Volunteer Programs  
Education and Outreach  
Partnership Building

### Key Accomplishments

Establishment of **Hometown Indiana** Program to provide \$250,000 in State funding for Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) projects.

**Organization of 13 workshops and conferences**, including Indiana Tree City Conference, Regional Tree Line Conference, Indiana Arborists Association Conference, and a Building With Nature workshop.

**Assistance and funding for 52 community grant projects**, including Cool Schools energy conservation demonstration tree planting projects at 20 schools.

**Creation of three new city forester positions** in Indiana communities and an urban forestry position at Purdue University, with grant funds.

Establishment of **Tree Master training programs** in five counties.

**Training** for Spanish-speaking arborist workers in Indianapolis.

Expansion of **Back Yard Tree Farm Program** in central Indiana.

Creation of two **Project 180 Urban School Beautification** projects.

**Reforestation of a lead-contaminated site in Ft. Harrison State Park** (a closed military base).

Creation of an **Urban Forestry Demonstration project at the Governor's residence**.

Completion of an ecoanalysis of Indianapolis urban forests using **CITYgreen GIS software**.



Tree City pride in  
North Manchester, Indiana

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Program Highlights

The U&CF Program **provided a total of 569 assists this fiscal year**. Those served include government agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, businesses, media, individuals, and others. Forty-seven percent of the assists were new, while 57 percent were repeat assists.

The U&CF Program has **provided technical and grant assistance to communities** in a variety of ways. Grants have benefitted 11 communities, providing assistance for tree inventory and planning projects. Tree planting programs have been made possible in an additional 20 communities. **The number of Tree City USA cities has increased by 25 percent** (another eight cities).

**The program has fostered partnership building among organizations.** This has been

achieved through funding three projects to help non-profit organization development and assisting the Indiana Urban Forest Council with program development.

**Increased funding opportunities were offered to communities.** The Hometown Indiana Program will provide \$250,000 in urban forestry grants. The U&CF Program provided further opportunities by conducting a grant writing workshop, maintaining a listing of nationally available grants, and awarding \$272,000 in grants to 52 communities and non-profit organizations.

**Technical training has been provided** to urban forestry practitioners by conducting eight specialist workshops, promoting the Indiana Arborists Association's Certified Arborist Program, and funding three projects on professional arborist education.



First Lady Judy O'Bannon presenting Tree Line award to Northern Indiana Public Service Company at the annual Indiana Tree City conference

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$299.0	\$272.1	\$299.3	\$275.2



## Iowa

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Sixty-one percent of the 2.7 million Iowans live in 980 urban and community settings. Trees growing along Iowa's streets and riparian areas, and in parks and even within private properties provide a wide range of benefits.

### Program Components

State and Local Partnerships  
 Education and Training  
 Grassroots Coordination  
 Grant Programs



### Highlights

**Trees for Kids** and **Trees for Teens**, major components of the State's program, are a cooperative effort of schools, State government, non-profit organizations, and private companies. Activities integrate education and tree planting programs. Private industry and associations donated \$43,000 to this program.

For schools lacking space to plant trees, the **Reading Rangers** Program was developed to encourage literacy and environmental awareness. Iowa plants a tree for every 20 pages that students read. During Earth Week, students read 87,773 pages resulting in the planting of 4,388 trees.

On public lands across the State, **75,500 trees** valued at **\$1.3 million** were planted by Iowa students.

Specially designed conservation education materials were received by **4,650 Iowa teachers and youth leaders**, who worked with over 264,600 Iowa elementary and secondary students.

**Iowa State University and Trees Forever** developed a **six-minute video** and distributed 2,500 copies to every school and public library statewide.

Trees Forever, working with IES Utilities, Inc., developed a **Tree A Trade** Program in six Iowa communities. Through the program, 300 trees in conflict with utility lines were removed and 300 new trees were planted in more appropriate locations.



**Trees for Kids** planting in May 1997, at McKinley Elementary School in Des Moines. The children learned about trees then planted, watered, and mulched them.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The Iowa Urban and Community Forestry Council actively promoted and supported educational programs. The Des Moines non-profit organization, Urban Trees, worked in cooperation with the Iowa DNR, the city of Des Moines, and MidAmerican Energy to promote a residential **Adopt-A-Tree** program. Through the program, residents were able to plant 529 trees, 141 of which were planted in low to moderate income neighborhoods.

The Council published and distributed the *Community Trees*, a semi-annual newsletter, to over 7,700 community leaders. The Council also coordinated the 7th Community Forestry Awards program for volunteers, professionals, communities, and Arbor Day Poster Contest winners with Iowa Governor **Terry E. Branstad**. Over 300 community leaders attended the program.

Three 5-hour hands-on **Tree Worker Training Workshops** were held for 71 municipal utility workers and 54 Iowa Department of Transportation workers.

A series of **information workshops and training opportunities** were offered by Iowa State University Extension Forestry and Horticulture, including 18 community tree workshops attended by 365 individuals. In the expansion of the highly successful **Community Tree Steward** program, 192 graduates provided over 6,300 hours of community service. **Youth Tree Stewards** training was provided to 453 fifth and sixth graders who then worked on school tree care efforts.

The Council provided assistance and training to over 245 Iowa communities by working with the nonprofit organization, **TreesForever**, who provided Statewide volunteer coordination. TreesForever administered an investor-owned utility tree planting program for these communities providing over \$370,000 in matching funds.



Trees for Teens planting in April 1997, which included 20 new trees at McCombs Middle School in Des Moines. The teens helped in planting, mulching, and watering. Prior to this effort, vandalism usually meant no tree survived. Today all 20 trees are thriving and guarded by the teens.

## Maine

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Maine's Community Forestry (CF) Program has advanced beyond street tree planting and management to address the stewardship of natural resources located in the community.

An ambitious new five-year plan has been developed that reflects the dramatic increase in demand for the program among Maine communities. The program assists communities in the management and protection of their natural resources.

### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Partnership Building  
Volunteer Programs  
Ecosystem Management

### Summary of Activities

A **Fire Management Plan** has been developed that will assist in establishing state standards, as well as assist local policy makers with the production of a holistic Master Resource Guide.

**Maine Community Forestry Council** was established as a non-profit organization.

The new position of **Community Involvement Coordinator** was added to the program.

The **Maine CF Program** assisted **90 municipalities** and **44 non-government organizations**, 31 of which were new to the program.

The **Maine CF Program** helped establish **12 new Tree Boards** and obtained 1,017 hours worth of technology transfer from workshop and seminar participants.

### Highlights

The **Maine Tree Wardens Association (MTWA)** was created with a mission "to promote awareness and professional care of Maine's community trees." The MTWA provides technical, educational, and informational support to its members.

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) awarded a grant to the **Maine Forest Service Community Forestry Program**. This grant is to promote a holistic approach to the management of natural resources located in or near populated areas. This objective is broken down into two focal areas: comprehensive resource management for policy makers and resource professionals and resource management targeting homeowners living on 1 to 10 acres. This new initiative will also address the urban/rural fire interface.

**Time and Tide Resource Conservation and Development Area** was awarded third party funding to assist in the development of a **Holistic Master Resource Guide**. The guide will provide municipalities with a broader array of tools to assess the current status of community resources and develop comprehensive municipal and regional plans and policies.



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The city of Auburn is implementing a tree planting program with entitlement money from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The program is designed to create community green spaces and to moderate the effects of heat, sound, air pollution, excess storm water runoff, and soil erosion. The tree planting program offers up to a \$500 interest-free loan with a matching grant of up to \$500 to Auburn property owners.

Members of Brunswick's newly formed Tree Committee joined consultants Nancy and Douglas Johnson to inventory street trees. One of the goals of Brunswick's Community Forestry program is to reline the streets with trees, particularly the heavily used access corridors.

Community awareness of Maine's tree resource has been raised through updating the 1990 Maine Register of Big Trees. Measurement, verification, and creation of a computer database to archive the information have been completed. A number of Maine's giants have been lost since the last update and they await replacements.

Governor Angus King, Jr., Department of Conservation Commissioner Ron Lovaglio, and State Forester Chuck Gadzik presented awards to Maine's outstanding leaders in community forestry. The honors included the 1997 Environmental Improvement Awards and the 20-year achievement awards for Tree City USA communities.



Maine Tree City USA Awards Ceremony on May 22, 1997,  
at the Pine Tree State Arboretum's Outdoor Education Center

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$216.9	\$192.0	\$230.5	\$336.4

## **Maryland**

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Land development has put tremendous stress on forests, streams, and the Chesapeake Bay. Movement of the urban populations to suburban areas has put additional stress on outlying areas, while leaving reduced tax bases for supporting and protecting natural and engineered infrastructure. Key to addressing these conditions is the creation, implementation, and strengthening of private and public programs and partnerships that sustain and improve the condition of urban and community forests and ecosystems.

### **Program Components**

Forest Conservation Program  
Licensed Tree Expert Program  
Maryland Community Forest Council  
Maryland PLANT Communities  
Reforestation Program  
Roadside Tree Program  
Tree City USA  
TREE-MENDOUS Maryland

### **Highlights**

The program provides technical assistance to local jurisdictions and agency partners by conducting biennial reviews of local programs and reviewing forest stand

delineations and forest conservation plans statewide to ensure compliance with the Forest Conservation Act (FCA).

Current program goals include direction of 75 percent of FCA planting to sensitive riparian areas and non-tidal wetlands.

### **Forest Conservation**

The Forest Conservation Act protects forest land by requiring assessment, protection, and mitigation according to land use type and existing on-site forest, when grading or sediment control plans call for a minimum 40,000 sq. ft. of disturbance.

Under the FCA program, 15 training workshops were attended by 501 participants, for a total of 3,244 seat hours. For the fourth academic year, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Forestry Service offered its Forest Conservation course at community colleges throughout the State.

### **Licensed Tree Expert Program**

Continuing our multi-year plan to revise the Tree Expert program, this year we completed a survey of all licensed tree experts. The survey was conducted in partnership with the Maryland Community Forest Council (MCFC), the Maryland Arborist Association (MAA), and the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (MAC-ISA). The resulting research provided the most comprehensive picture of the industry in Maryland to date. The paper was presented at the ISA's 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference, the MAA and MAC-ISA's annual meetings, and was published in the January 1998 edition of the *Journal of Arboriculture*. The Department is working with industry members toward possible regulatory and programmatic revisions.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Maryland PLANT Communities

This program was recently revised, completing a two-year process. Nineteen communities participated in 1997, down from 27 the previous year. Target participation is incremental increase to 100 communities by the year 2000.

## Maryland Community Forest Council

The Council established four primary goals for 1997: establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding between MCFC and DNR; a review and revision of the Maryland PLANT Community recognition program; increased sustainability through gains in funding; and improvement of member recruitment and marketing.

## Reforestation Program

The Reforestation Law requires that impacts greater than 1 acre of forest due to State-funded highway projects must be mitigated on a 1:1 basis. This year over 50 acres were reforested on public lands in western, central, and southern Maryland, with riparian forest buffer sites being the priority.

## Tree City USA

The DNR supports the National Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA program. In 1997, there were 32 communities designated as Tree City USA (for calendar 1997 activities), an increase of one over 1996.

## Roadside Tree Program

The Roadside Tree Law places trees in all public road rights-of-way in Maryland under DNR's jurisdiction. DNR issues permits for the removal and care of such trees to State highway, county and municipal roads departments, utilities, contractors, and citizens.

In 1997, staff created and began implementation of a computerized database for Roadside Tree Permits, allowing electronic generation of permits, as well as storage and rapid retrieval of information. This process is ongoing to encompass all permit types, and will allow analysis of permits and comparison of activity levels and types across the State.

## TREE-MENDOUS Maryland

The Stream ReLeaf program used volunteer labor to plant more than 44 miles of riparian forest buffer in accordance with Maryland's 600-mile commitment to the interstate Chesapeake Bay agreement to establish 2,010 miles of riparian forest buffer by the year 2010. To enhance this effort, TREE-MENDOUS Maryland (TM) volunteers potted and maintained over 4,000 native hardwood seedlings.

Over 16,000 volunteers gave more than 60,000 hours of service toward planting, care and maintenance, and other tree-related activities.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$467.1	\$394.7	\$320.5	\$281.6



## Massachusetts

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The USDA Forest Service has provided tremendous flexibility in the design and implementation of the Massachusetts Urban Forestry Program. There appear to be no barriers or limitations for program cooperators and collaborators; however, new ideas and institutional changes take more than zeal, they need diligence and tenacity.

### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Grant Aid  
Education and Outreach  
Volunteer Programs

### Highlights

More than 1,000 replacement trees were ceremonially planted around the State following a devastating storm on April 1, 1997, using a combination of State and Federal funds as part of the Mass ReLeaf Fund.

The program documented 1.76 million media hits and 11,670 seat hours of workshop training.

### Westminister Town

Two 100-year-old trees were pruned and fertilized in front of the library, a community landmark. The librarian became an articulate spokesperson on behalf of the program leading to regional coverage by the *Worcester Telegram and Gazette*, which has a readership of 118,000. More than 100 additional historic trees were treated with similar results using Federal funds in the State's first Heritage Tree Care Grant round.

**The city of Melrose** (pop. 29,000) established a Tree Committee, developed a budget, and conducted a street tree survey, with assistance from the Urban Forestry Program's Community Action Forester. Data from this survey will provide a foundation for future management recommendations and Tree City USA.

The **East Boston Ecumenical Community Council** employed six youth-at-risk in its Summer Youth Landscape/Conservation Training Program. The Council completed 2,100 hours of professional training and community service in and around the East Boston Greenway.

**The city of Watertown** (pop. 34,000) completed the development of a user-friendly Geographic Information System (GIS)-based tree inventory. Municipal staff will now map all pruning contracts, update tree maintenance and planting requests, and make more accurate budget forecasts.

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***"Living in a highly urbanized environment precludes many of the children we serve from having an intimate knowledge of nature."***

Holyoke Boys and Girls Club Director  
Bruce Thompson, writing in support of  
Massachusetts' Audubon grant application

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The non-profit **Eagle Eye Institute** engaged more than a dozen youth-at-risk in the Mission Hill and Dorchester districts of Boston. They performed *We Are the City Trees*, an original play about the benefits of city trees. An urban forestry grant assisted the organization in hiring a director and preparing a video documentary.

The city of **Lowell** (pop. 104,000), in partnership with the Lowell Parks and conservation trust, utilized data from a city-wide tree survey to justify a full tree survey of its downtown area, as well as significant budget increases for tree planting and maintenance.

The city of **Pittsfield** (pop. 49,000) established the Arboretum at Springside Park, with assistance from Pittsfield Beautiful Inc., and a grant from the urban forestry program. A new Arboretum Committee performed more than 1,000 hours of community service and training, engaging hundreds of residents.

The city of **Amesbury** (pop. 15,000) engaged and trained more than 30 volunteers to survey town trees and establish a new GIS map layer for its downtown business district. The community then successfully applied for a Heritage Tree Grant to restore the health of its largest and oldest tree. The restoration took place in a public Arbor Day celebration, during which the city's designation as a Tree City USA was also announced.

***"The citizens of North Adams deserve to be commended for their commitment to the preservation of the city's trees."***

Vice President **Al Gore** in a letter to the city's Tree Commission for being the first in the Berkshires to earn Tree City USA distinction

The cities of **North Adams** (pop. 17,000), **Sturbridge** (pop. 8,000), **Maynard** (pop. 10,300), and **Worcester** (pop. 170,000) utilized their community volunteers to conduct street tree surveys.

The **Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts** developed and organized a symposium, Planting for People. It attracted more than 100 participants and chalked up more than 800 seat hours of training for garden club members. All participants were given printed materials, provided by a grant from the urban forestry program.

The villages of **Allston** and **Brighton** (pop. 70,000) completed a tree survey, using more than 100 trained volunteers. The city of Boston hopes to use this survey as a pilot scheme for a city-wide survey: data will be entered into a GIS along with other information such as water and sewer systems.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$277.1	\$297.2	\$288.9	\$256.0

## Michigan

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Communities in Michigan face pressures from changing land use, contamination, development, human settlement expansion, and changing community needs, perceptions, and priorities. The complexity of the physical environment and its relationship to living systems continues to be a significant concern.

Urban and community forest resources are vital to maintaining healthy ecosystems where people live and work. Continued management is required to create and sustain functioning ecosystems that provide a range of amenities. Vital to this management is technical information, an effective delivery system, and local interest and commitment.

### Program Components

Arbor Day Celebration  
Arbor Day Poster Contest  
Arbor Day Mini-Grants  
Community Forestry Grants  
Educational Outreach  
Technical Assistance  
Tree City USA  
Visiting Urban Forester Program

### Highlights

The Urban and Community Forestry Program provided information, technical assistance, and educational materials to diverse populations.

#### Arbor Day Celebrations Statewide

In cooperation with the Michigan Arbor Day Alliance, Michigan communities sponsored over 280 Arbor Day activities and celebrations ranging from schoolyard clean-ups to community tree plantings. In Lansing, the statewide celebration hosted approximately 1,500 second and third grade students from the tri-county area. Using an ecosystem-based approach, students learned about trees, wildlife, water, and soil.

#### Arbor Day Mini-Grants

Arbor Day \$200 mini-grants were awarded to 193 schools and municipalities for tree planting, library materials, and celebrations. Students planted trees, created outdoor learning labs, and held ceremonies celebrating trees. Public libraries used the grants to update and add community forestry resource materials to their collections.

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***"Forests are the lungs of our land,  
purifying the air and giving fresh strength  
to our people."***

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Franklin D. Roosevelt



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

**Arbor Day Poster Contest.** Fifth graders from public and private schools participated in the first Arbor Day Poster Contest: *Trees are Terrific! Arbor Day is too!!* The selected poster was entered in the National Arbor Day Foundation's poster contest.

**Storm Damage.** A July storm with tornadoes and straight line winds resulted in significant damage in five communities. The resulting damage and clean-up efforts have led to an interest in long-term planning, storm management, and tree planting efforts. The Urban and Community Forestry Program is partnering with municipalities, other agencies, and volunteer groups to respond to this recent crisis.

**Visiting Urban Forester Program.** This program provides technical assistance to cities and towns. In partnership with Michigan Forestry and Park Association, a consulting forester reviews the community's forestry program and makes recommendations for the future.

**Community Forestry Grants.** Forestry grants were awarded to 40 communities for activities ranging from tree inventories to plantings and training and technology transfer.

The city of **New Baltimore** received \$4,900 to conduct a city tree inventory and produce a management plan.

*"...of the ten cities named in 1996 by Money Magazine as the 'best places to live in America,' seven of them are Tree City USA's."*

From the *Arbor Day Newsletter* published by the  
National Arbor Day Foundation

**Forsythe Middle School** in Ann Arbor received \$1,900 to create an outdoor classroom using low maintenance native species.

The **University of Michigan** received \$4,000 to conduct technical workshops for all citizens on several topics including hazard tree identification and creating backyard habitat.

**Central Middle School** in Plymouth received \$927 for tree planting on school grounds. Students and community volunteers planted the trees and shrubs.

**Indian River Area Library** received \$1,000 to acquire urban and community forestry reference materials. The library updated its collection with materials on tree identification, forest policy, insects and disease, general forestry texts, and children's books.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$342.7	\$262.3	\$362.5	\$326.5

## Minnesota

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 dnr\\_homepages/dnr\\_metro/](http://www.gis.umn.edu/forinet/ir/dnr_homepages/dnr_metro/)

Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) in Minnesota is a cooperative effort among many entities including Federal, State, local, non-profit, and voluntary organizations. A major goal of the U&CF Program in Minnesota is to strengthen advocacy of U&CF by local leaders. An additional goal is to increase the capacity of local units of government to appropriately manage their community forest resource.

### Highlights

**Ten mini-grants were awarded to local communities** to implement tree inventories, education programs, and demonstration projects. One of the grants resulted in the production of a brochure: *Trees and the Construction Process*.

**The monthly U&CF Update**, a calendar and list of opportunities, was developed to promote awareness, participation, grant programs, educational materials, Internet linkages, and U&CF events. The Update is prepared and distributed each month through the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MNSTAC) and to all Department of Natural Resources (DNR) U&CF Program leaders.

**The Cooperative Suppression Program for Oak Wilt** utilized \$125,000 in Federal funds to leverage \$300,000 in local investments to treat about 500 infection centers in 125 communities.

**A USDA Forest Service Technology Transfer Grant funded a two-day Sustainable Development Conference.** Forty-two sessions were held and over 850 people attended the conference. Conference presentation summaries were distributed at the meeting and to other States in the Northeastern Area.

A new multi-faceted cooperative effort was initiated to assist communities affected by storms. The publication *How to Get Assistance to Clean-up, Repair & Replace Trees: A Guide for Local Governments with a Federally Declared Disaster Area* was developed and distributed to over 70 communities that were affected by an ice storm in fall 1996.

The city of Moorhead developed and tested a customized **GIS tree inventory system**, using aerial photography, Global Positioning Systems (GPS), and laptop computer technology, which will be offered to other communities through an ongoing pilot program. The system was developed with the assistance of DNR area staff and a Federally supported summer intern.

**Focus Funding Support** aided the creation of GIS land covers for three cities, including a street tree inventory for one city. This project is part of the Demonstrating Eco-Region Based Integrated Forest Resource Management Planning in Communities Initiative.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

A total of 126 communities were recertified, and eight new communities were added as **Minnesota Tree City USA** cities. NSP (a Minnesota based investor-owned utility) received Tree Line USA designation, including recognition for the Trade-a-Tree Program, cooperatively implemented by the Twin Cities Tree Trust.

**Minnesota ReLeaf** planted over 15,000 trees and 4,600 shrubs in 75 statewide projects. This was accomplished through a \$400,000 contribution from the Minnesota Legislature, with support from local project sponsors, who contributed an additional \$624,000.

**The Arbor Month Partnership (AMP)**, with Federal assistance, distributed over 165,000 seedlings to schools and provided educational materials to over 6,500 educational contacts. The partnership also provided technical assistance to local Arbor Day activities.

**The Neighborhood Wilds Program** was initiated to work with groups of small landowners on the urban fringe. Interdisciplinary ecosystem-based management initiatives, including the Metro Trout Stream Watershed Program and the Metro Greenway Corridors and Natural Area Collaborative, were undertaken.

**Training** was cooperatively provided to urban forestry professionals and community



volunteers. Examples include: NE Minnesota Community Forestry Conference (590 seat hours), Annual Northwest Urban Forestry Workshop, Minnesota Green Annual Conference (1,290 seat hours), Shade Tree Short Course (5,840 seat hours), the Sustainable Development Conference (11,200 seat hours), and regional MNSTAC Council Workshops.

**Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)** and sustainable development related training materials were developed and presented at workshops, including *Sustaining Through Action: Practical Tips for Achieving Sustainable Urban Forestry*, a pre-conference workshop at the eighth National Urban Forest Conference (Atlanta, Georgia). A Technology Transfer Grant was also received to develop materials for EBM Workshops in 1997-98.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$297.5	\$264.5	\$268.3	\$258.2

## Missouri

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The Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Program traditionally provided tree planting and technical assistance to community groups. While these programs generated significant interest among community groups, they had a limited capacity to promote critically important sustainability concepts. During 1997 and in future State projects, including Tree City USA and Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance Grants, focus will be on promoting and supporting sustainable urban and community forestry programs.

### Program Components

Grant Funding  
Technical Assistance  
Volunteer Program  
Education and Outreach  
Tree City USA

### Highlights

Efforts to increase the number of **Tree City USA** communities resulted in the largest number of new communities in the program in recent years. Six new Tree City USA cities were established.

A new grant program entitled "**TRIM**" (**T**ree **R**esource **I**mprovement and **M**aintenance) was developed for non-tree planting projects. These grants emphasize comprehensive urban forestry programs.

Volunteer driven community forestry activities were supported through a partnership with **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri**, a statewide non-profit that serves as the state's volunteer coordinator.

The **Missouri Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council** serves a networking and technical assistance function for individuals and organizations involved in tree care throughout the state.



The winning student of the State Arbor Day Poster Competition planting trees at the school is assisted by an MDC forester.



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The **Branch Out Missouri** Program provided \$1,000 to \$20,000 grants for tree planting projects across the state. Sixty to eighty percent of project costs were provided by the program, and 74 tree planting projects were funded. A total of \$624,371 and 6,710 trees were planted in communities across the State.

The **Missouri Department of Conservation** granted \$50,000 towards tree pruning and replacement projects as the fourth phase of a five-year cooperative agreement, completed for the restoration project of historic Tower Grove Park in St. Louis.

New **TreeKeepers** groups were developed in Springfield, Kansas City, St. Joseph, St. Louis, and Columbia.

The **Missouri Department of Conservation** worked with **Forest ReLeaf of Missouri** to promote urban and community forestry education and support volunteer driven community forestry activities. Both organizations utilized the **TreeKeepers** program to train volunteers to perform routine tree maintenance in communities. Grants were given to Ozark Greenways in Springfield (\$10,000); Bridging the Gap in Kansas City (\$7,000); and Forest ReLeaf of Northwest Missouri (\$20,000).

The **Missouri Department of Conservation** hosted two **Building With Trees** workshops in conjunction with the National Arbor Day Foundation. Over 140 people attended, with the majority representing builders and developers.



Community leaders from the town of Exeter at their Tree City USA Award Ceremony

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$362.0	\$380.9	\$299.5	\$263.9

## New Hampshire

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### Program Components

Public Awareness  
Community Networking  
Volunteerism  
Resource Professionals

### Summary of Activities

The Division of Forests and Lands - Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth hosted more than **45 information and education programs** during 1997. These programs are designed for members of the general public who have an interest in natural resources and in caring for trees.

Over 35 cities and towns benefitted from the **Community Tree Steward** program. Approximately 3,900 hours of volunteer time were donated by the participants, an increase of 800 hours from 1996.

A **Forest Field Days** was held at Northwood Meadows State Park. This two-day event was an educational excursion to the forests for over 1,500 New Hampshire school children from 17 local communities to learn about forests, wildlife, tree growth, woodland soils, and related natural resources.

During 1997, the New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry Program placed a special emphasis on **Manchester**, the State's largest city. Many groups and organizations had been working independently, but there had been no united effort to improve social and environmental conditions. The **Community Tree Steward Program** helped form partnerships with many groups and organizations to work on projects. They contributed 1,200 hours toward the community garden project and 600 hours assisting with the city's tree inventory and evaluation project.

University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension - Extension Educators in Forestry and Wildlife and Extension Educators in Agriculture in cooperation with the Division of Forests and Lands staff provided **technical assistance to over 100 cities and towns** during 1997.

***"We are told that Americans live in the 'now'....We don't landscape any further ahead than our lease or our job....A hundred years ago someone planted this chestnut tree in front of my porch....This year I'll plant one for the next hundred years."***

Syndicated columnist Ellen Goodman  
June 15, 1997

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Highlights

In 1989, **Governor Gregg** established a task force to examine community trees. This task force led to the development of the New Hampshire Urban & Community Forestry Plan, and in 1991, the **New Hampshire Community Tree Commission** was formed. Commission members serve as an advisory group to the State Forester. A Community Forestry Team, representing the three co-sponsoring organizations, was established and handles the program technical operations.

The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests launched the **Community Tree Steward Program**. This volunteer program provides comprehensive training to volunteers in two eight-week training blocks. Upon graduation, volunteers move into the community, where they donate a minimum of 40 hours of their time to awareness programs in schools and among adult groups, helping communities plan, implement, and monitor their community forest programs.

The New Hampshire Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program is working through **partnerships** between the New Hampshire Division of Forests and Lands, the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, and the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests.

Staff from these programs work together to provide a cohesive program of public awareness, community networking, volunteerism, and resource professionals for the entire State.

**The Division of Forests and Lands** has a two-pronged program for providing community forestry assistance. Regional staff provide technical assistance to local communities with the management of public owned lands, such as **Town Forests**. In addition, the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth provides on-site demonstrations, as well as weekly educational and informational programs.

**The University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension** is an educational network connecting University knowledge and research to people throughout New Hampshire. Extension specialists based in Durham, and Extension educators in each of the ten counties of the State, offer both scientific information and technical assistance to communities.

**The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests** was founded in 1901, out of concern over destructive logging in the White Mountains. The Society is a non-profit organization, promoting conservation and the wise use of natural resources through land protection, education, and advocacy.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$281.0	\$195.9	\$196.5	\$208.7

## New Jersey

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New Jersey has eight million residents within its 7,787 square mile boundary. It is the most densely populated state in the Nation and is situated between New York City and Philadelphia. The NJ Community Forestry Program is addressing the urban forestry needs of the State's residents through a variety of programs.

### Program Components

Partnership Building  
Outreach Programs  
Research  
Technical Municipal Assistance  
Legislative Action  
Educational Projects  
Grant Awards

### Key Accomplishment

New Jersey's county and municipal governments were given a helping hand in managing successful tree-care programs when the **New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act** was signed into law. It created the **Community Forestry Program** at the state level and established a state community forestry council. It supplemented the **Tort Claims Act** by providing immunity protection for

public entities that have an approved community forestry management plan and participate in a training skills program. It also establishes a community forestry license plate, which will fund elements of the act.

### Highlights

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program went online with a dedicated Internet **World Wide Web site** (<http://www.state.nj.us/dep/forestry>). With a click of the mouse, a browser can now access all projects, such as big tree list, grant programs, and Tree City USA guidelines, as well as contacts for more information.

The New Jersey Community Forestry Program produced the **Tu Bishvat Program Activities Booklet** to help celebrate the Jewish Tree New Year. This program was provided to 1000 local organizations and schools throughout the State.



Junior volunteers participating in  
a tree education program



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

New Jersey's **Healthy Forest Campaign** was initiated to better communicate to the State's residents the health and condition of New Jersey's trees and to identify preventive and restoration actions needed to improve and restore these affected ecosystems. An understanding of their tree resource will encourage the public to promote and participate in management decisions.

The **Trees in Crisis Report**, which documented the structure and health of the urban and community forest, was released to the public. This information, based on a statewide assessment, summarized the decline and poor condition of the urban forest. The report recommendations included: increasing tree plantings, training and educating tree planters, establishing municipal tree recycling programs, and increasing the number of local tree commissions.

**Tree Time**, an incentive program designed for inner city children's libraries, embraces the creativity found in a library's community story-time and uses it as a means to explore the urban forest ecosystem. By providing participating libraries with a set of tree books and resources, Tree Time provides new support subject matter for library programs.

The **NJ Tree Foundation, Inc.** has been established by the State Community Forestry Council and the State Forest Service. Its goal is to assist cities and towns through grants, education, and outreach. This non-profit organization reaches out to New Jersey's corporations to establish partnerships between local communities and businesses.



Why Urban Forestry?

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$803.0	\$746.1	\$633.4	\$314.1

## New York

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### Program Components

Technical Assistance  
Grant Aid  
Education Programs  
Partnership Building  
Pest and Disease Control

### Key Accomplishments

The swift and decisive action taken in response to the **Asian Long-horn beetle** infestation averted a potentially devastating loss of trees in New York City. Losses could have been on the scale of Chestnut Blight and Dutch Elm Disease. The New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, in conjunction with the Agriculture Plant Health Inspection Service and the city of New York, imposed a quarantine area to survey for this beetle and impose an eradication plan. A total of 1,600 infected trees have been removed, chipped, and burned. **Governor Pataki and Mayor Giuliani** each committed \$1,000,000, and the **USDA Forest Service** has committed **\$350,000** to replace these trees. A partnership of community volunteers, professional foresters, landscape architects, and arborists are developing and implementing a replacement strategy.

### Highlights

The **New York Urban Forestry Program** has continued to stress community involvement, technical assistance, grants, and education. The following programs illustrate this continuing commitment.

The **Annual New York ReLeaf State Conference** was organized by the New York Urban and Community Forestry Council and held at Cornell University in Ithaca. The program brought together communities and organizations from across the State. Participants were able to learn about important new techniques for tree management, including: new bare-root planting techniques, development of load-bearing soil media for urban planting pits, use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in tree inventories, and the Asian Long-horned beetle.



**New York  
ReLeaf**

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

**The New York State Tree Nursery School Seedling Program** is serving the dual role of providing educational opportunities for innovative school teachers and a new direction for the State forestry nursery. The nursery produces seedling packets for planting schoolyards with windbreaks and plants that attract wildlife. The tree planting projects are used in conjunction with lessons in biology, energy conservation, and pollution measurement.

**Trees New York** has initiated a **Young Citizen Pruner Program**. This program is in response to the realization that the youth of New York have significant environmental concerns. The program involves a 20-hour course taught in both junior and high schools. Students are taught the environmental benefits that trees provide in urban areas and are made aware that the tree resource is under threat. Instruction is also given in performing street tree surveys, learning to determine age and height of different species, as well as determining the relationship between tree crown area and rooting volume.

**Black Rock Riverside Services in Buffalo** is combining efforts to renovate housing with an energetic tree planting program, which is likely to be replicated in other areas of the city. **Watertown Rotary** uses half of the interest

from a trust fund managed by the Northern New York Community Foundation to sponsor an annual tree planting project in the town.

The New York State Urban and Community **Forestry Resource Notebook** is a significant resource for anyone responsible for community trees. This publication is sponsored by the New York State Department of Conservation, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute. The **Forestry Resource Notebook** (second edition 1996) is a compendium of the latest urban forestry management information from associations, universities, and an array of other sources.

Greece Central Schools hosted a week-long celebration of environmental awareness. A special guest, **Sprig Treeture** in full costume, taught elementary students about the need for trees in our environment and how both humans and animals benefit from trees. Treetures were first created in 1984, and became the official volunteers of the Forest Service in 1990. The National Association of State Foresters coordinates Treeture appearances, sends out classroom materials, and promotes the program through community educators and other groups.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$619.0	\$442.2	\$743.9	\$642.0

## Ohio

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### Program Components

Direct Community Assistance  
Tree City USA  
Department of Natural Resources  
Grant Funding  
Urban Forestry Conferences  
Annual Symposium of Ohio City Foresters  
An Internet Site

### Highlights

The effectiveness of Ohio's urban forestry program can be judged using the national Tree City USA (TCUSA) program. For the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Ohio led the country in the number of designated TCUSA communities. The 208 designated Ohio cities and villages not only demonstrate their commitment to managing local community resources, but also the power and potential of Ohio's urban forestry mission. By developing and strengthening local comprehensive tree care programs, the Ohio Division of Forestry was able to help communities plant over twice as many trees as they removed and maintain almost twice as many trees as they planted.

Urban forestry educational programs were attended by over 650 community officials, city foresters, shade tree commission members, and allied agencies during the year. Each of Ohio's six regional urban foresters hosted an educational conference. These seminars provided vital information to local communities on efficient and effective natural resource management. In addition to the regional conferences, a statewide symposium for Ohio's city foresters was co-hosted with The Ohio State University.

Efforts continue to locate non-Federal funds to support a statewide tree planting and care grant program. Discussions with the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency have led to two pilot projects that used air pollution fine money to purchase and plant trees for local communities.

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***"(The word) 'Urban' is losing its nasty character. It's becoming, once again, a term of endearment...and that's good news for those who love city life."***

Commentary in *The Boston Globe*, Dec. 26, 1996, noting that the perception of "urban" is changing from bad (urban crime, urban violence, urban blight) to good.

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Facilitating communications between communities with urban forestry needs, and the private sector that can satisfy those needs remains a high priority. An interactive web site continues to evolve as a useful tool in addressing this concern (<http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/ODNR/Urban/Urbanfor.htm>).

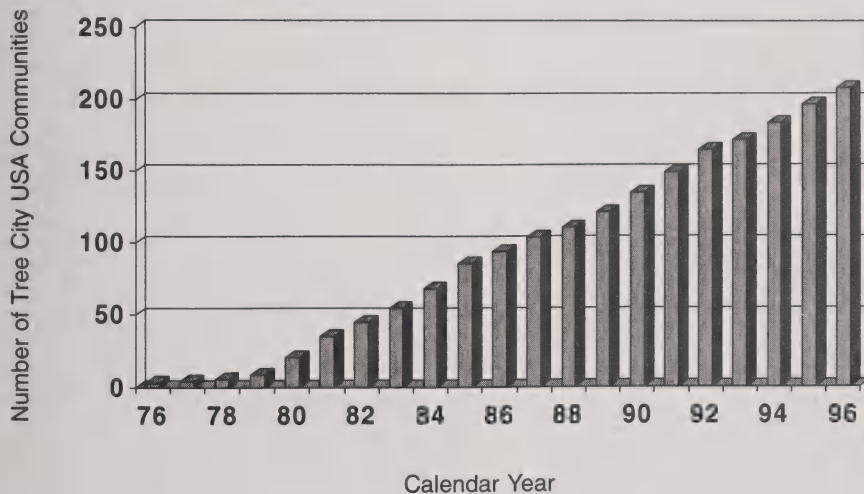


# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

*"There is no aristocracy in trees. They will thrive near the humblest cabin...and become just as refreshing to the eye and as fruitful as they will be in the shadow of a king's palace."*

J. Sterling Morton, Founder of Arbor Day

## Tree City USA - OHIO 1976-1996



### Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$643.5	\$530.6	\$418.5	\$375.2

## Pennsylvania

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Under the leadership of the State Forester's office, an advisory council was impaneled to guide the State program through an organized approach to form long-range goals. Communities are encouraged to appoint a shade tree commission, develop a tree ordinance, perform a tree inventory, and develop a long-range plan that includes, but is not limited to, the removal and replacement of declining trees.

### Program Components

Tree City USA  
Municipal Tree Restoration Program  
Sylvan Communities Magazine  
Grant Programs  
Provision of Technical Assistance  
Educational Programs  
Community Tree Stewards

### Key Accomplishments

America the Beautiful grants were awarded to 103 communities and volunteer groups in 1997.

The Pennsylvania Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Council obtained a \$44,000 grant from the **William Penn Foundation** to focus on educational activities and hire a community forestry assistant.

Seventeen workshops, seminars, and educational programs were organized.

A *Shade Tree Commission Guide* and *Fund-Raising Guide* were developed and published in 1997.

### Highlights

A *Community Tree Resource Guide* was developed to assist community volunteers with urban forestry projects.

The Southeast Pennsylvania *Community Tree Association Newsletter* was started.



With tender loving care

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

**Community Tree Stewards**, a comprehensive training program for communities, was developed to increase community volunteerism.

A showcase **arboretum** was planted by community residents and their children next to the recently developed **Wetlands Ecolab** at Jamestown Elementary School in Northwest Pennsylvania. Specimens form a gateway that leads visitors into the amphitheater and the weather monitoring station. A handicap accessible trail guides them over the forest wetland to a recycling garden. This fall, students continued the program by adopting trees and measuring and mapping their inventory locations.

**Urban riparian restoration projects** are taking place in Sheffield, Brookville, and Summerville with community participation. Parks are being restored or created in response to the damage from the 1996 flood.

In Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Grandview Chamber of Commerce Image Beautification Committee of Braddock Borough supported an overall **street-scape plan** to beautify and improve the town's access points and main commercial district. The plan will create a renewed sense of community pride and improve property values of the area. Funding came from a \$2,000 Pennsylvania U&CF Council Grant, which leveraged an additional \$8,750.

**Workshops, seminars, and educational programs** were delivered to diverse audiences in Northeast PA. These included: an U&CF workshop for teachers and youth in Lackawanna County; tree care workshops at various locations in the region; and seminars on open space management, native plants, grant writing, integrated pest management, and fund raising. A **Working in the Trees** seminar in Wilkes-Barre was attended by 140 arborists and covered a variety of OSHA, Workers Comp, ANSI, and tree care topics.



Urban forestry starts here.

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$753.3	\$512.1	\$629.5	\$569.4

## Rhode Island

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### Program Components

Education and Outreach  
Volunteer Programs  
Cooperative Projects

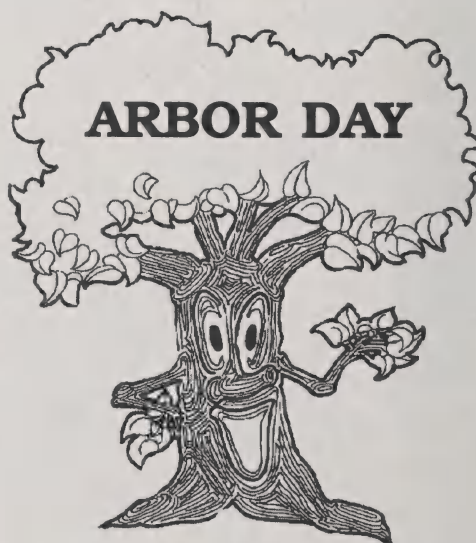
### Highlights

A **Tree Awareness Project** was completed. The program supplied a single source workbook to school teachers, centered around Arbor Day activities and designed to heighten awareness of the role that trees play within our ecosystems. Tree facts and lesson plans are also defined and detailed. The Division of Forest Environment, city of Providence, Providence Arbor Day Committee, Mary Elizabeth Sharpe Street Tree Endowment, and Keep Providence Beautiful partnered to support this endeavor.

The workbook for elementary grades was translated into Spanish to reach the inner city areas of Providence where 17 percent of the population is Hispanic. In addition, a slide show was developed in English, Spanish, and Portuguese to explain the benefits of trees to minority groups and to increase their participation in tree planting programs. Subsequently, the Providence Street Tree Inventory and the Mary Sharpe Street Tree Endowment showed an increase in requested plantings in target areas.

**Tree Rhode Island** is a program that was developed by Rhode Island Urban and Community Forestry Council and the Division of Forest Environment to **renew impoverished public lands** by planting and nurturing tree seedlings. Any public lands, greenways, abandoned railroad lines, public highways, and vacant public lots that can be improved by planting trees are eligible.

The **National Tree Trust** donated 6,000 seedlings, which were then planted by 16 volunteer groups, including high school ecology clubs, boy scouts, girl scouts, garden clubs, and city and town parks departments. The Rhode Island Federation of Garden Clubs is now reviewing these sites to award the Best Results prizes.



A Compilation of Tree Facts and Learning  
Activities for the Elementary Grades

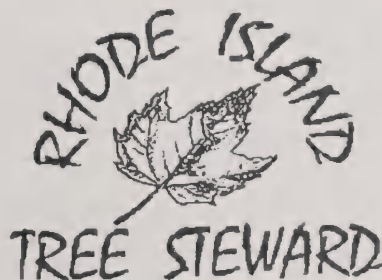


# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

The Rhode Island Tree Council, with a grant from the National Tree Trust, sponsored a seminar for those interested in becoming certified **Rhode Island Tree Stewards**. This seminar was the third such program offered by the Rhode Island Tree Council, the University of Rhode Island, and the Rhode Island Division of Forest Environment. The grant enabled the Tree Council to obtain existing literature and develop new literature covering subjects such as urban and community forestry, tree physiology and morphology, tree identification, planting and site techniques, maintenance and preservation, and tree health and problem diagnosis.

The seminar took place over six evening classes and two Saturday workshops. In return, each Tree Steward volunteered community service. Tree Stewards organize tree planting events and maintain trees by mulching, weeding, pruning, and watering. Some volunteers conduct workshops in tree care and carry out tree inventories in their own communities.

To date, 53 individuals have taken the course and are presently fulfilling their community service. With the cooperation of various community departments and organizations, Rhode Island's trees are getting the TLC they need to survive. Many thanks to those who are making this program possible.



The Rhode Island Tree Steward Program

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$198.3	\$212.4	\$170.7	\$204.3

## Vermont

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Vermont is the second most rural state in the country, with a forest cover of over 80 percent. Promoting awareness and understanding of the social, economic, and environmental benefits of trees in cities are mutual goals of both the Federal and State programs.

While still rural in nature, many areas in Vermont are being affected by shifts in population and development. Vermont's program addresses the need to implement comprehensive natural resource management by working directly with local, regional, and State planning agencies.

### Program Components

Financial Support  
Technical Assistance  
Partnership Building  
Volunteer Programs  
Training and Education

### Highlights

The five-year **Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Action Plan** was completed. The plan reflects the importance of building sustainable local urban and community forestry programs through a combination of training, technical assistance, community involvement, cooperation, and financial grants.

**Trees For Local Communities Cost-Share Grants** were awarded to 28 different communities. Grants provided \$60,000 and were leveraged by over \$70,000 in hard and in-kind local matches. Since 1992, the number of communities with street tree inventories has increased from 9 to 29.

**The Community Forestry Leadership Program** was concluded during 1997. Sixteen graduates participated in over forty hours of training, with subjects ranging from improving leadership skills to steps in developing local community forestry programs. Four of these graduates have gone on to develop volunteer groups in their communities in support of existing forestry efforts. A second program is currently in the planning stages.



**Arbor Day 1997 Poster Contest Winner in  
Arlington, Vermont**

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

**Vermont Tree Steward Awards** were initiated in 1997. The Vermont U&CF Council recognized the efforts of a community, volunteer group, practitioner, and community leader at their annual meeting in December. The keynote speaker was the secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources, who addressed the importance of enhancing urban ecosystems.

**Technical assistance** continues to play an important role in the State program. Sixty-nine communities received assistance, which included hazard tree evaluations, training in street tree inventories, municipal forest management, on-site tree planting and maintenance guidance, urban tree health diagnosis, and volunteer management. Training for State forestry staff ensures that technical expertise is enhanced.

**Vermont Arbor Day** offers each elementary school class in the State an opportunity to have a program at the school and to participate in the national Arbor Day Foundation fifth-grade poster contest. Each student receives a seedling to take home. The student poster selected by the Vermont U&CF Council has a special Arbor Day program at their school that involves planting an ornamental tree. In 1997, nearly 60 schools and 7,000 students participated.

Publication of *The Vermont Urban and Community Forestry Manual* has provided an important program reference available to communities. In addition, a computer database program called **STREETREE** has been developed for recording inventory information and is available to communities involved with street tree or park inventories.



Volunteer Tree Planting in Burlington, Vermont

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$194.3	\$220.6	\$185.7	\$190.3

## West Virginia

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### Program Components

Demonstration City Grants  
Technical Assistance  
Education and Training  
Volunteer Programs  
Tree City USA  
Ecosystem Management

### Key Accomplishments

A total of **3,038 trees** were planted in 89 communities. The program supported 42 action groups and coordinated 13 Tree City USA cities.

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Council has promoted urban forestry through **extensive media outreach** in 1997.

The **Demonstration City Grants** program has resulted in 23 projects receiving over \$99,000 in grant aid, which was matched by over \$137,000 in local contributions.

Two highly successful **Tree Maintenance and Safety Workshops** were held. The goal was to address safety and pruning issues across West Virginia.

### Highlights

**Demonstration City Grants** continue to be invaluable to the Urban and Community Forestry program. Twenty-three projects were funded with a total of \$236,000 in grant and leveraged funds. Communities benefited from street tree inventories and management plans, plus the planting of 920 trees, over 1000 shrubs, and the elimination of many hazard trees.

**The Monongahela Valley Greenspace Coalition** established a working relationship with city officials and rallied citizen support in the Greater Morgantown Area. The coalition conducted the first large-scale street tree inventory performed by volunteers in West Virginia and utilized a Demonstration City Grant to purchase custom street tree inventory software. Efforts by the Coalition led to the development of a **Tree Board** that is presently networking with decision makers to revise a city tree ordinance.

**National Tree Trust Community Tree Planting projects** allowed the U&CF program to target more volunteer groups with materials and technical support. The project made low-cost trees available to small volunteer groups and communities financially unable to participate in more costly grant programs, while promoting the value of urban forestry and fostering tree care concepts in rural communities. Thirty-five garden clubs, schools, youth clubs, sports organizations, action groups, and small communities took part, utilizing 259 volunteers, planting 2,128 seedlings, and leveraging \$4,767 in local donations.



# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

**Two Tree Maintenance and Safety Workshops**, targeting local arborists, were sponsored by the Urban and Community Forestry Council. Over 60 participants were trained in O.S.H.A. guidelines, electrical hazards, pruning standards, hazard tree recognition, plus safety and principles of climbing. Representatives from O.S.H.A., Asplundh, Inc., the International Society of Arboriculture, USDA Forest Service, and Wilson Tree Company volunteered time and expertise to make the workshops possible. Attendees included private and municipal tree care professionals, as well as Division of Forestry employees.

**Promoting urban forestry through extensive media outreach** was given extra attention this year. Several feature stories appeared in newspapers statewide explaining urban forestry programs. A major theme in most articles was comprehensive urban tree care and encouraging more communities to develop sustainable programs. *Wonderful West Virginia*, a popular magazine throughout the State, featured an article describing the benefits of urban forestry and the opportunities available to communities.



Members of the Monogahela Valley Greenspace Coalition training for the street tree inventory in Morgantown

## Federal Program Support

*Dollars in thousands*

The State Program	<u>FY 1994</u>	<u>FY 1995</u>	<u>FY 1996</u>	<u>FY 1997</u>
	\$239.1	\$226.0	\$242.5	\$229.1

## Wisconsin

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## Program Components

Tree City USA  
Grant Funding  
Education and Outreach  
Technical Support  
Partnership Building  
Comprehensive Natural Resources  
Management

## Key Accomplishments

Awarded \$509,000 in cost-share grants to 40 communities and groups.

Conducted 15 tree identification and selection workshops, attended by over 550 people.

Sponsored a statewide urban forestry conference attended by over 450 people.

Produced a quarterly newsletter circulated to over 3,800 recipients.

Certified 10 new Tree City USA communities, now totaling 113 in Wisconsin.

## Highlights

The Urban Forestry Grant Program was expanded through the development of an **Intent to Apply pre-application form**. This one-page simple form was less intimidating to many communities who lacked the resources or expertise to complete the more complex application package. The pre-application was distributed to people on the *Urban Forestry Newsletter* mailing list. Interest in the grants tripled; small communities and non-profits accounted for the greatest increase. Changing the application process has proven to be a major success. There has been an increase in contacts made, public awareness, and assistance provided to communities.



(Photograph by Cindy Casey)

Colonel Harold Miller and a young helper from Fort McCoy's Child Development Center work together on Arbor Day to plant a greener future at the Army base.

# STATE ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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The city of Rice Lake's Citizen Tree Management Advisory Board published a **planting and care guide for yard and boulevard trees and shrubs**. Typesetting assistance was provided by an information processing class at Rice Lake High School. Funding for the project was provided by the local Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary clubs, as well as Rice Lake Utilities.

**The village of Belgium Tree Board Internet website** was created by sixteen-year-old Eric Peterik, an eleventh grader at Cedar Grove/Belgium High School. The web site was his summer project and includes two particularly important pages: one links to other area resources, and the other is a developers' page. This page, which is designed to help developers, provides information about the community's tree policy and ordinance, species diversity procedure, tree list, and an article about on-site selection. Browse this site at <http://www.dataplusnet.com/~belgium/trebrd>.

**Greening Milwaukee** enables community organizations to lead the replanting of 200,000 trees on private property lost during the Dutch Elm Disease outbreak of the 1960s. **This partnership consists of the Milwaukee Community Service Corps, along with the city, and an Urban Forestry Grant from the Wisconsin DNR.** The mission of Greening Milwaukee is to develop active stewardship of the urban forest through education, facilitation of partnerships, and the creation of a non-profit organization.

**An urban forestry grant to Golden Sands created four sixty-second radio public service announcements.** Five stations were selected to air the messages that covered oak wilt, construction damage, planting, and pruning. County Land Conservation and Extension offices were provided with topical follow-up information for radio listeners to pick up in nine counties.

An urban forestry grant-aided project is underway at Taleisin—the home, farm, and architectural school of the world famous architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**. The project will interpret how Mr. Wright designed his buildings and homes to blend with their natural surroundings. Taleisin will be used to educate architects, landscape architects, designers, and others on the importance and value of the natural environment and how to integrate design with the natural environment.

**The Dane County Henry Vilas Zoo has developed a vegetation inventory and management plan** with the aid of an urban forestry grant. The plan meets the special management needs of the trees within the zoo and incorporates strategies to deal with visitor pressure, animal damage, and the need to mimic natural environments. Some animals have been utilized in tree management activities; for example, elephants are great for brush disposal.





## 2. The Federal Program

The Federal Urban and Community Forestry Program provides leadership and financial and technical assistance to individual States and organizations in order to effectively manage natural resources in populated areas.

At the Federal level, the Urban and Community Forestry Program is driven by a national strategy entitled *Vital Communities through Healthy Ecosystems*. The strategy is accomplished in cooperation with the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUFAC), State Foresters, and other partners at the Federal, State, and local level.

Following the national strategy, the Northeastern Area has developed a Five-Year Plan for Urban Forestry that features three issue areas: healthy sustainable forests, sustainable development, and information resource management. The plan is accomplished in partnership with Federal, State, and local leaders. It provides an overall framework in which the twenty Northeastern Area States and the District of Columbia participate, while maintaining autonomy to identify, prioritize, and develop their own plans.



Focus for the Northeastern Area program is provided through the vision for urban forestry that emphasizes an improved quality of life through ecologically-based natural resource stewardship.

Resources are limited and effective long-term solutions depend on meeting economic, social, and environmental criteria. The Federal program supports and promotes public/private partnerships at the Federal, State, and local level.

## The Northeastern Area

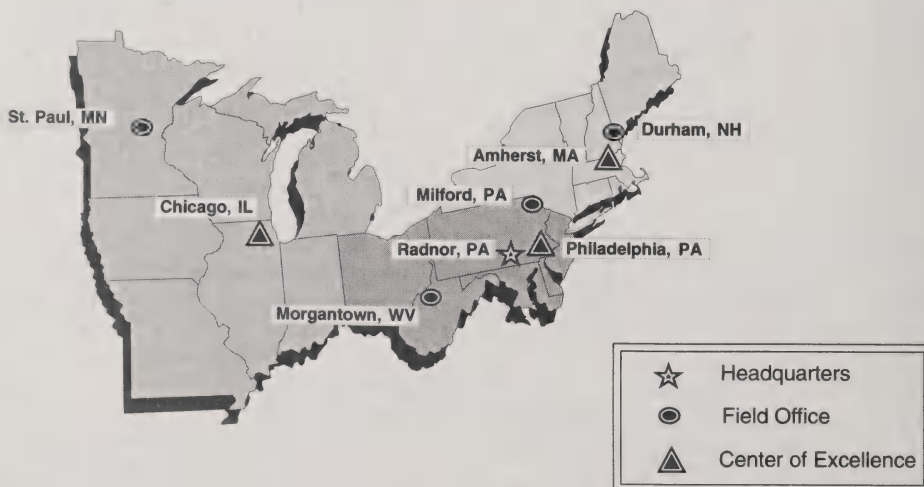
Technical and managerial staff are located in field offices that serve either six- or seven-State subregions within the twenty-state Northeastern Area. This decentralized staffing structure facilitates communication with State-level counterparts and assists in regionalized approaches to problem solving.

New York and the New England States are served from the Durham, New Hampshire, Field Office. The Morgantown, West Virginia, Field Office works with the six States in the Mid-Atlantic subregion, and the St. Paul, Minnesota, Field Office serves the seven Midwestern States. There is also a USDA Forest Service urban forester located in Washington, DC, to coordinate Federal activities in the Washington metropolitan area, and an urban forester located at the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, who assists with program coordination in the Mid-Atlantic States.

Three Centers of Excellence have been developed. These Centers support the technology transfer component of the Federal Urban Forestry Program and partner with Forest Service Research, universities, and conservation organizations.

The Centers of Excellence are:

- ★ Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States, Chicago, IL
- ★ Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- ★ Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry, Amherst, MA



# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## **Centers of Excellence:**

### **Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States: Chicago, IL**

Contact: Gina Childs  
USDA Forest Service  
845 Chicago Avenue, Suite 225  
Evanston, IL 60202-2357  
tel: (847) 866-9311 ext. 14  
fax: (847) 866-9506  
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The mission of the Urban Forestry Center for the Midwestern States (the Center) is to identify urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and coordinate the exchange of information that results in healthy communities and ecosystems. The Center is a cooperative partnership between Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry and the North Central Forest Experiment Station. It serves the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

**Providing technical and financial assistance to over 30 community organizations in the Chicago metropolitan area** as part of the Urban Resources Partnership program. Activities included tree planting, environmental education, oak woodland restoration, and natural resources inventory. Over 300 volunteers cooperated on 25 different projects. Most notably, one of the volunteers for the Bubbly Creek Restoration Project introduced President Clinton and Vice President Gore at the American Heritage Rivers announcement earlier this year.

**Assisting in the restoration of Chicago Wilderness.** Chicago Wilderness is the name given to the 54 organizations partnering to protect, restore, and manage the natural resources that exist in the Chicago region. Chicago Wilderness is also the name for the 200,000 acres of protected natural lands stretching from Chiwaukee Prairie in Wisconsin, through the six counties of northeastern Illinois, to the dunes of northwestern Indiana. This region contains some of the best surviving examples of tall grass prairie in the United States and is home to over 181 species of plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered in the state of Illinois.

**Providing technical and financial assistance to technology transfer projects in the Midwest** that have resulted in three regional conferences, three publications, and three video sets in 1997. Topics covered in these materials include using urban forestry for energy conservation, ecosystem-based planning and management in urban areas, cutting-edge arboricultural research, creating an informed constituency for urban forestry among public officials, and ecological landscape design.

## **Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum** **of the University of Pennsylvania: Philadelphia, PA**

**Contact: Brooks Mullahy**  
**9414 Meadowbrook Avenue**  
**Philadelphia, PA 19118**  
**tel: (215) 247-5777 ext. 152**  
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**e-mail: mullahyb@pobox.upenn.edu**



The Center for Urban Forestry at the Morris Arboretum conducts urban forestry advocacy, education, research, and demonstration programs serving local, State, and regional needs. The Morris Arboretum as a Center brings the resources of an internationally-known university arboretum to the Forest Service. This public/private partnership enhances the capacity of each organization to deliver information and technical assistance to a broad range of constituencies concerned with natural resources management.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

**Directing the Northeastern Pennsylvania Community Forestry Program** with the Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry and the USDA Forest Service. In its third year, this award-winning program continues to effectively integrate natural resources management with regional economic and social revitalization.

**Chairing the Philadelphia Urban Resources Partnership (PURP).** This team of Federal, State, and nonprofit agencies and organizations delivers financial, technical, and educational resources to Philadelphia communities involved in natural resources management and education.

**Providing assistance to State Urban and Community Forestry councils** in Delaware, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania by working with the State urban forestry coordinators to implement their program goals and plans. Assistance includes database management, development of community outreach strategies, and regional workshops on natural resources issues.

**Providing education for professionals, community members, and youth.** This includes ecosystem-based management training for national, State, and local audiences; support of the Philadelphia Department of Recreation's youth environmental education program; integrated research on the effects of trees on the local environment of West Philadelphia with environmental studies of West Philadelphia High School students.

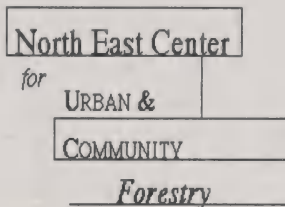
**Providing 11 arboricultural training seminars** and workshops offered across Pennsylvania and in four other states, reaching 412 professional tree managers. Training in technical skills and professional arboriculture opportunities were provided to students of the University City High School.



# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## **Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry: Amherst, MA**

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Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry  
Department of Forestry and Wildlife Management  
Holdsworth Hall  
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Amherst, MA 01003  
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The Northeast Center for Urban and Community Forestry is a cooperative partnership among the USDA Forest Service's Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry, the University of Massachusetts, and the seven States of New England and New York. The mission of the Northeast Center is to respond to urban and community forestry information needs, facilitate and support new and existing research, and to coordinate among states the exchange of information that contributes to healthy, sustainable communities.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

**Developing a draft *Volunteer Training Manual*** that will serve as a model volunteer-driven community tree inventory system. Coordinated street tree inventories in the communities of S. Kingstown, Rhode Island; Stamford, Connecticut; Allston-Brighton, Massachusetts; and Brookline, Massachusetts, that allowed for refinement of the model inventory process. The feedback from these inventories will enable the Northeast Center to complete the final draft of the manual and to begin the development of a *Train the Trainer* companion curriculum and manual.

**Providing technical assistance to the reforestation efforts** in the Greenpoint and Williamsburg neighborhoods of Brooklyn, New York. The Center has met with local citizen groups, city officials, and Forest Service personnel to provide technical assistance in the development of a Geographic Information System to inventory and manage new and existing vegetation in the neighborhood.

**Providing assistance to communities impacted by natural disaster.** Disaster assistance in the form of storm damage assessments was provided to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management and the city of Springfield, Massachusetts, following severe winter storms. The Center completed a survey of cities and towns in the Springfield area for the purpose of creating a compact to effectively manage future disasters.

## **3. National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) Grants**

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) serves as a key player in the delivery of the Federal program. NUCFAC works to establish sustainable urban and community forests by encouraging communities of all sizes to manage and protect their natural resources for current and future generations. NUCFAC has established a national Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program that is administered annually and supports urban and community forestry activities that have national impact. Eight challenge grants were awarded to projects in the Northeastern Area in 1997. The three grant categories for 1997 were as follows:

### **Category 1 – Research and Technology Development**

Goal: To understand the relationship between urban and community forest resources and humans.

### **Category 2 – Education, Communication, and Outreach**

Goal: To increase the knowledge of the general public as well as specific audiences about urban and community forestry.

### **Category 3 – Creative and Innovative Projects**

Goal: To support creative and innovative urban forestry ideas, messages, or projects.

# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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## NUCFAC Challenge Grants Awarded in 1997

**Urban Options, Inc. of East Lansing, Michigan**, received a \$10,000 grant to put trained teams in direct contact with residents to deliver customized information and services related to ecological landscaping and to help residents create and implement an urban ecological action plan.

**Contact:** LeRoy Harvey at (517) 337-0422.

**The University of Illinois, Urbana** was funded at \$130,000 for a study to document that urban forests contribute to the vitality and longevity of older adults.

**Contact:** William Sullivan at (217) 244-5156.

**The village of Riverwoods, Illinois**, received a \$14,430 grant to study the impacts of development on the perched/seasonal water table as it may relate to the health of the community's declining woodlands.

**Contact:** Roy Stanger, Mayor at (847) 945-3990.

**TREES Forever of Iowa** received a \$225,334 grant to produce a six-part television and video series and educational guide on the essential link between trees and forests and Native American cultures.

**Contact:** Shannon Ramsey at (319) 373-0650.

**The Maine Department of Conservation** was funded at \$123,600 to build, apply, and assess a pilot program promoting a holistic approach to managing urban natural resources on parcels smaller than 10 acres.

**Contact:** David Spicer at (207) 287-4988.

**The Parks and People Foundation of Baltimore, Maryland**, received a \$15,890 grant to research the major municipal barriers to community forestry in Baltimore and other cities, identify solutions, and produce a handbook with transferable models to be used by other communities nationwide.

**Contact:** Sally Loomis at (410) 448-5663.

**The City University of New York** was funded at \$77,855 for The National Art and Design Street Tree Competition to promote urban forestry and expand public participation in the management and maintenance of street trees while generating solutions to signage, protective barriers, and street tree furniture.

**Contact:** Caitlin Cahill at (212) 642-2970.

**Cornell Cooperative Extension of New York** was granted \$19,550 to develop a replicable urban model, video, and booklet that links the heritage of senior community members to the heritage of advanced-age trees and urban forests, and symbolically transfers "ownership" and accountability for the future of urban forests to the younger generation.

**Contact:** Craig Trowbridge at (315) 788-8450.

## 4. Congressional Initiatives

Several congressional initiatives intended to explore an improved quality of urban living through expanded Federal, State, and local partnerships were funded in Fiscal Year 1997.

### Chicago Wilderness

**Contact:** David Wachtel  
**tel:** (312) 346-8166 ext. 30  
**fax:** (312) 346-5606

Chicago Wilderness is the name given to the unique natural areas that extend from northwestern Indiana through northeastern Illinois to southeastern Wisconsin. It is also the name given to 54 conservation organizations that have joined together to restore, protect, and manage these lands. The 200,000 acres of Chicago Wilderness provides habitat for 181 species of plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered in the state of Illinois; the area also contains some of the best surviving examples of tall grass prairie and oak woodlands in the country—all of this in the backyard of the 8 million people who live and work in this metropolitan area. Since 1996, this consortium of 54 conservation organizations has dedicated itself to promoting greater awareness of these unique natural treasures and has cooperated to provide better management of these lands.

### Accomplishments in 1997 include:

**Providing a two-day event** to over 8,000 students and teachers participating in **Wild in Chicago**, an educational event hosted by the Field Museum.

**Providing seed money** to 43 projects sponsored by 38 different agencies and organizations to accomplish restoring, protecting, and managing the natural areas of this region.

**Distributing 30,000 copies of the** 64-page, full-color *Atlas of Biodiversity* to private citizens and schoolteachers in the region.

**Publishing 14,000 copies of a descriptive brochure** on Chicago Wilderness.

**Leveraging \$2,151,800 in cash commitments** from an initial USDA Forest Service investment of \$350,000. Cash commitments were made by the following organizations: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NASA, the World Wildlife Foundation, the Gerard Donnelly Foundation, and the Crown Victoria Entertainment Line. In addition, Chicago Wilderness raised over \$1,822,390 in donated services from member organizations.



# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## GreenStreets

**Contact: Karen Nowacki**  
**Mayor Daley's GreenStreets Program**  
**Department of Streets and Sanitation**  
**121 North LaSalle, Room 701**  
**Chicago, IL 60602**  
**tel: (312) 744-7080**  
**fax: (312) 744-3267**



The Chicago GreenStreets Program addresses urban forestry needs in the region by focusing on tree planting and care, recycling, and open space revitalization. The eight-year-old initiative restores deteriorated neighborhoods and enhances public open space through public/private partnerships, which is a cornerstone of the program.

### Accomplishments in 1997 include:

#### **Planting 3,500 trees throughout Chicago:**

- ★ 700 trees in the south loop
- ★ 150 3½-inch diameter trees along South Shore Drive
- ★ 135 trees for Arbor Day 1997
- ★ 53 trees for the Ogden Avenue median

#### **Landscaping the Dan Ryan and Kennedy Expressways**

The enhancements along the expressways included vine and tree plantings, the creation of pocket parks, and bulb and shrub plantings by volunteers.

#### **Designing traffic calming measures through landscaping**

GreenStreets landscaped more than 75 traffic circles, cul-de-sacs, and bump-outs throughout the city. Treatments varied according to size, but most include trees, shrubs, and flowers.

#### **Planting along the Orange Line**

GreenStreets is enhancing the stations at street level by planting trees, shrubs, groundcover, and orange daffodils and tulips. The extensive landscaping project was initiated in the fall of 1997 and will continue through 1998.

#### **Expanding private participation**

In 1997, the Zegna Boutique, an exclusive Italian clothing store for men, donated \$10,000 to the city for greening projects and featured GreenStreets as part of their window display.

## **Northeastern Pennsylvania Urban Forestry Demonstration: Scranton, PA**

**Contact: Donna Murphy**  
1300 Old Plank Road  
Mayfield, PA 18433  
tel: (717) 282-5025  
fax: (717) 282-3381  
e-mail: donna@nier.org



The Northeastern Pennsylvania Community and Urban Forestry Program (NEPA) is directed by the Center for Urban Forestry, Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, in collaboration with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry. This program successfully integrates ecological restoration with regional social and economic development by supporting partnership-building activities, stewardship, and environmental awareness. The program's use of natural resources stewardship to promote regional vitality and quality of life has had a positive and lasting effect on the post-industrial metropolitan regions in northeastern Pennsylvania. This program received the 1997 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

A major accomplishment of the program has been its ability to integrate conservation and socioeconomic issues and bring diverse partners together to implement forestry-based projects. During 1996, 104 partners contributed to the completion of demonstration projects. Of this number, 53 were newly formed for the sole purpose of implementing forestry-based projects. Documentation shows that this number will reach 300 with the completion of the 1997 demonstration grants.

In 1997, the Tree Liability and Assessment grants were added to the program to promote a traditional approach to urban and community forestry.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

**Funding 20 projects** with grants ranging from \$3,000 to \$500,000.

**Integrating natural resource improvement with economic development through the creation of 1,150 local jobs.**

**Planting 1,530 canopy trees, 926 understory trees, 4,390 shrubs, and 4,257 herbaceous plants.**

**Completing 7,500 hours of volunteer services** to 10 demonstration projects, with a one-to-one cost share.

**Sponsoring workshops** on sustainable development attended by over 300 people.

**Working with 15 school districts** and 450 local students on forestry related stewardship.

# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## Revitalizing Baltimore

Contact: Guy W. Hager  
Revitalizing Baltimore  
Parks & People Foundation  
1901 Eagle Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21207  
tel: (410) 448-5663 ext. 108  
fax: (410) 448-5895

The Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) project is working to educate and involve all citizens in protecting, restoring, and sustaining their natural resources. This model urban forestry project is funded by Congress through the USDA Forest Service and is managed in partnership by the Parks & People Foundation. The partnership includes Federal, State, and local government agencies, non-governmental non-profit organizations, community groups, businesses, and academic institutions. Outreach is a key aspect of this program and involves diverse social and economic groups in cultivating a spirit of neighborhood stewardship. RB advises decision-makers on crucial ecological management issues in three watersheds: Gwynns Falls, Jones Falls, and Herring Run. Community-based organizations are established in all three watersheds.

## Accomplishments in 1997 include:

### **Environmental education, job training, and leadership development for youth:**

**Communities Organizing to Revitalize our Environment (CORE)**, sponsored by Outward Bound, involved 36 high school students in three wilderness expeditions and three weekends of environmental field work.

**KidsGrow** teaches middle and elementary school students to be aware of their own neighborhood's environment. The KidsGrow school year program serves 100 elementary students in four recreation centers. KidsGrow provided a six-week environmental day camp for 80 middle school students last summer.

The **Gwynns Falls Conservancy** offered hands-on environmental teaching to school students in Leakin Park, the largest urban wilderness park in Baltimore City.

### **Gwynns Falls Urban Forestry Management Plan:**

A technical committee coordinates development of this planning process. The Baltimore-Washington Collaboratory at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County developed goals and objectives for the plan and tested a management framework in one subwatershed.

## DePaul University

Contact: Dr. Lynne Narashimhan  
1 East Jackson, 1501A  
Chicago, IL 60604-2287  
tel: (312) 362-5652  
fax: (312) 362-5776

Over the next fiscal year, DePaul University will establish a program in Urban Forestry that will provide an ecological approach to the management of urban forests, rivers, wetlands, and prairies. An Urban Forestry program at DePaul will allow faculty and students to interact with the scientific community that exists in the Chicago metropolitan area. Interactions with professionals will enable students to develop practical understanding of the sciences underlying the restoration and management of forests, prairies, wetlands, savannas, and river corridors. DePaul University will partner with the USDA Forest Service, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and other conservation organizations to develop this program.

A variety of courses will be offered in such topics as the dynamics of forest ecosystems, ecosystem restoration, landscape ecology, and urban forest management. Partnerships with national and local groups will provide an opportunity to address a wide spectrum of urban forestry issues.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES



## 5. Urban Resources Partnership

The Urban Resources Partnership (URP) is a program that puts Federal resources into the service of community-initiated and community-led environmental projects. At least seven Federal agencies, including the USDA Forest Service, are providing funding and on-site technical assistance to education and restoration efforts in 13 cities throughout the country. The Northeastern Area serves six of these cities:

**Buffalo, NY**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**East St. Louis, IL**  
**New York, NY**  
**Philadelphia, PA**

### Mission

The Urban Resources Partnership advocates and assists community-based action through local partnerships to enhance, restore, and sustain urban ecosystems in their respective cities. These actions contribute to the improvement of the social, economic, and physical well-being of the people and their natural environment.

Through the Urban Resources Partnership, thousands of communities are receiving support to turn vacant lots into vibrant community gardens, restore degraded rivers, revitalize public parks, plant trees to improve the quality of life, and educate youth about their environment. More importantly, the program is building new relationships between government agencies and the community.

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### Buffalo URP

**Interim Contact: John Whitney**  
**50 Commerce Way**  
**East Aurora, NY 14052**  
**tel: (716) 652-8480**  
**fax: (716) 652-8506**  
**e-mail: nrcs@localnet.com**

The Buffalo URP is just completing the organizational phase and is presently recruiting to fill the Coordinator position. The formal mission statement and plan of work are not yet developed. The URP will likely focus on projects supporting shoreline restoration, community gardening, brownfields revitalization, greenway plan implementation, urban wildlife habitat, and forestry, primarily in minority and low income communities within the city of Buffalo.

## **Boston URP**

**Contact: Geeta Pradhan**  
**c/o Sustainable Boston**  
**26 Court Street, 8th floor**  
**Boston, MA 02108**  
**tel: (617) 635-0346**  
**fax: (617) 635-0383**  
**e-mail: geeta.pradhan.psd@ci.boston.ma.us**

The Boston URP was established in 1997. The partnership is a coalition of neighborhood groups, grassroots organizations, city, State, and Federal agencies. The partnership was created to assist urban communities to identify, clarify, organize, and address environmental concerns that link social, economic, and environmental issues. The coalition provides leadership, education, coordination, and assistance to enhance, restore, and sustain urban natural resources.

### **Boston URP natural resources goals:**

- ★ Working together to promote advocacy, build stewardship, and support projects that contribute to a healthier, safer, more natural urban environment.
- ★ Assisting diverse neighborhoods, communities, and grassroots organizations to actively enhance the quality of life.
- ★ Providing leadership, sharing resources, skills and expertise of the partnership, and building a teamwork approach to delivering services.

### **Chelsea Creek Revitalization**

This is Boston URP's pilot project, which is working with resident-based community organizations in Chelsea and East Boston; these are two of the lowest income communities in Massachusetts and contain large minority populations. These two communities are underserved by open space, burdened by environmental pollution, and are joined by their common waterfront resource, Chelsea Creek. The Chelsea Creek Action Group (CCAG) is leading the project by engaging residents and local organizations, particularly youth, to improve the Chelsea Creek watershed.

### **Activities include:**

- ★ A community mapping project of waterfront land use to identify Chelsea Creek non-point source pollution.
- ★ Watershed survey, education, and outreach activities.
- ★ Community access to environmental quality information and identification of gaps.
- ★ Citizen participation and review of Federal, State, and local environmental permits through capacity-building training sessions.
- ★ Urban forestry projects involving neighborhood groups and municipal and State agency partners.

# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

## **Chicago URP**

**Contact: Avery Patillo**  
**Urban Resources Partnership**  
**77 W. Jackson Street, 24th Floor**  
**c/o Department of Housing**  
**Chicago, IL 60604**  
**tel: (312) 353-2473**  
**fax: (312) 353-0117**



The Chicago URP is a collaborative initiative between Federal, State, and local government agencies cooperating to promote and implement urban conservation in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. The partnership pools financial and technical resources to assist local non-profit organizations, community groups, and youth organizations in implementing projects that meet community needs and improve the natural environment.

### **Chicago URP natural resources goals:**

- ★ Open space enhancement
- ★ Water quality improvement
- ★ Urban habitat creation, enhancement, and management
- ★ Environmental education and stewardship
- ★ Ecosystem management techniques

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

#### **Illinois and Michigan (I&M) Canal Origins Site Restoration**

The Chicago Youth Centers, Fellowship House, and the Chicago Park District working with youth corps members and hundreds of volunteers has resulted in riparian restoration and bank stabilization at the I&M Canal Origins site. The effort has also increased community awareness, as well as city-wide and national awareness.

#### **Kane County Forest Preserve and Burnidge Forest Preserve Enhancement**

Over 250 elementary and high school students and community volunteers have restored 40 acres of native prairie and enhanced 15 acres of upland habitat.

#### **Beaubien Woods Restoration**

Cooperative efforts of the Cook County Forest Preserve District, Fishin' Buddies Youth Fishing Club, ten full-time "conservation kids," and over 150 community volunteers contributed to the enhancement of the lake ecosystem resulting in a documented 500 percent increase in public use of the preserve.

#### **Hands-on Training and Experience for Tomorrow's Ecologist**

Twenty-two youth crew members and supervisors and 50 volunteers have restored a 16-acre site in the Shallow Cliff Woods Forest to native prairie and oak savanna. Crew members participated in the management of the preserve, enhancing their natural resource conservation knowledge and skills.

## **East St. Louis URP**

**Contact: Don Johnson**  
**Metropolitan Community College**  
**601 James Road, Thompson Blvd.**  
**East St. Louis, IL 66201**  
**tel: (618) 271-9540**  
**fax: (618) 271-9737**

The East St. Louis URP was established to motivate local residents by a vision that they can create a coordinated response by government agencies, local leaders, groups, and organizations to address natural resource issues in the East St. Louis area.

### **East St. Louis URP natural resources goals:**

- ★ Use local resources and partnerships to meet project goals.
- ★ Manage urban ecosystems to protect, restore, enhance, create, and sustain flood plains, wetlands, forests, and green lands.
- ★ Create job opportunities and sustainable economic development related to natural resource opportunities.
- ★ Provide information and technical assistance for urban community planning and environmental restoration efforts.
- ★ Promote and improve urban ecosystem information.
- ★ Increase citizen understanding of the urban environment and the relationships between their actions and their natural surrounding.
- ★ Develop a network to educate urban dwellers.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

#### **Katherine Dunham Artisanal Village**

Provided an outdoor recreational park area that can be utilized for community performances and environmental education resulting in a multi-purpose outdoor area that is unparalleled in the city of East St. Louis.

#### **Emerson Park Revives, Reduces, Recycles!**

Once targeted for redevelopment, this site now provides greenspace for the community residents to use and enjoy. The food grown in the raised-bed community garden is used as a tool to teach entrepreneurship and as a resource to be sold at the East St. Louis Farmer's Market.

#### **Project Clean Sweep II**

Project Clean Sweep hired neighborhood youth to improve the local environment by cleaning and clearing trash, debris, and overgrown vegetation from vacant lots as well as removing graffiti from buildings. The youth were introduced to the field of horticulture, landscape, and graphic art by providing an opportunity for them to design landscapes and work with a graphic artist to create murals for display in the neighborhoods.



# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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## **New York City URP**

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**16 East 34th Street, 8th Floor**  
**New York, NY 10016**  
**tel: (212) 340-2948**  
**fax: (212) 340-2948**  
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The New York City URP was established to stimulate intergovernmental cooperation and community action by supporting the revitalization efforts in the city. The objective of this group is to provide technical and financial support to local community groups to help improve the environmental quality of life in the city, particularly in underserved communities.

### **New York City URP natural resources goals:**

- ★ Promote environmental stewardship through awareness, involvement, and participation of community groups and residents.
- ★ Respond to locally identified priorities and engage local communities in program planning and implementation.
- ★ Create a sustainable model of intergovernmental agency cooperation with an effective Federal, State, and local partnership.
- ★ Involve youth in an experience that will enhance their understanding of the natural environment.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

#### **Fostering a Variety of Community-Based and Ecosystem Approaches**

Last year, the partnership worked on a variety of projects to enhance the natural environment within the city. There were listening sessions in communities in all five boroughs to help the citizens define the issues relating to the future of the regional forest ecosystem in their community. A research team worked on a soil mix that will help city trees survive longer. In addition, there were several projects that provided education and job skills for youth.

#### **Reconnecting to the Watershed Areas in Jamaica Bay and the Bronx River**

The New York City URP is currently involved in two areas that form part of the New York City watershed. One of the focus areas, Jamaica Bay, incorporates Gateway National Recreation Area and numerous communities in Brooklyn, Queens, and the Roackaway Peninsula. This project will engage youth in hands-on environmental activities; respond to natural resources restoration needs; and help to develop and implement community-based environmental revitalization. The Bronx River Project will build upon the already existing partnership efforts along the river and help to foster community-based initiatives to improve the river, its banks and surrounding neighborhoods. Another project objective is to update the Bronx River Master Plan.

## **Philadelphia URP**

Patrice Carroll  
Urban Resources Partnership  
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e-mail: [purp@libertynet.org](mailto:purp@libertynet.org)



The Philadelphia URP was established to help enhance the quality of life in the city of Philadelphia through community involvement and action and through interagency coordination. The goal is to protect, restore, and benefit from the natural resources of the city. The Philadelphia URP is structured as an unincorporated collaboration of 21 member agencies and organizations who share decision-making, actively support the vision and mission of the partnership, select projects for funding, provide technical assistance to funded projects, and contribute resources to further the goals of the partnership.

### **Philadelphia URP natural resources goals:**

- ★ Assist community efforts to conserve, restore, and access natural resources.
- ★ Increase awareness and appreciation of nature.
- ★ Contribute to a healthier and safer natural environment.
- ★ Promote the more efficient use of limited Federal, State, and local resources, both financial and technical.
- ★ Foster economic and social benefits derived from people working together for an improved environment.

### **Accomplishments in 1997 include:**

**Reforestation** – 2,953 trees and shrubs planted in woodland areas.

**Community Forestry** – 398 trees planted along streets, in neighborhood parks and gardens; 179 mature trees pruned; 40 dead or dangerous trees removed.

**Parks and Gardens** – 87 new neighborhood parks and gardens created; 49 existing neighborhood parks and gardens improved.

**Streambank Restoration** – 600 feet of streambank along Schuylkill River stabilized.

**Environmental Education** – 93 teachers received environmental education training; 250 youth participated in environmental camps or clubs at nine recreation centers; 1,710 students were educated about watersheds at school; 350 students participated in environmental service learning activities at their school; 275 youth participated in community environmental programs.

# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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## **6. Federal Financial Assistance**

The major share of the Federal funding for most States is grouped under two basic systems for allocating dollars: the base amount and pro rata distribution. Each State and the District of Columbia receives a \$150,000 base amount to support Federal requirements to maintain a program coordinator, a volunteer coordinator, a viable urban and community forestry council, and implement a strategic plan.

The remaining allocation is prorated, based on the number of communities in each State and its percentage of the nation's population. Recipients match all the Federal funds on a 50/50 basis.

# 1997 USDA URBAN FORESTRY

## Budget Summary for Fiscal Years 1994 to 1997

The State Program	Dollars in thousands			
	1994	1995	1996	1997
Connecticut	\$284.7	\$194.5	\$229.7	\$213.2
Delaware	\$167.0	\$163.7	\$174.7	\$170.5
District of Columbia	\$324.9	\$431.8	\$218.0	\$218.5
Illinois	\$561.6	\$377.5	\$438.8	\$541.9
Indiana	\$299.0	\$272.1	\$299.3	\$275.2
Iowa	\$235.6	\$218.2	\$251.2	\$451.0
Maine	\$216.9	\$192.0	\$230.5	\$336.4
Maryland	\$467.1	\$394.7	\$320.5	\$281.6
Massachusetts	\$277.1	\$297.3	\$288.9	\$256.0
Michigan	\$342.7	\$262.3	\$362.5	\$326.5
Minnesota	\$297.5	\$264.5	\$268.3	\$258.2
Missouri	\$362.0	\$380.9	\$299.5	\$263.9
New Hampshire	\$281.0	\$195.9	\$196.5	\$208.7
New Jersey	\$803.0	\$746.1	\$633.4	\$314.1
New York	\$619.0	\$442.2	\$743.9	\$642.0
Ohio	\$643.5	\$530.6	\$418.5	\$375.2
Pennsylvania	\$753.3	\$512.1	\$629.5	\$569.4
Rhode Island	\$198.3	\$212.4	\$170.7	\$204.3
Vermont	\$194.3	\$220.6	\$185.7	\$190.3
West Virginia	\$239.1	\$226.0	\$242.5	\$229.1
Wisconsin	\$267.9	\$330.0	\$285.8	\$280.4
SUBTOTAL *	\$7,835.5	\$6,865.3	\$6,888.4	\$6,608.5

### The Federal Program and Federal Financial Assistance \*\*

Federal Program	\$1,390.3	\$1,588.8	\$938.8	\$869.6
Fed. Financial Assistance	\$334.0	\$61.0	\$113.7	\$128.7
SUBTOTAL	\$1,724.3	\$1,649.8	\$1,052.5	\$998.3

### Special Projects, Congressional Initiatives and Pilot State Projects

Revitalizing Baltimore	\$489.8	\$494.0	\$390.0	\$300.0
Chicago GreenStreet	\$1,000.0	\$1,126.0	\$700.0	\$350.0
De Paul University	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$350.0
Chicago Wilderness	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$700.0	\$700.0
NE PA	\$0.0	\$500.0	\$0.0	\$1,127.0
Asian Longhorned Beetle	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$500.0
Cook County Preserve	\$0.0	\$879.0	\$113.0	\$0.0
Ohio Arbor Program	\$0.0	\$500.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Pilot State Projects	\$500.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Special Projects ***	\$135.0	\$150.0	\$215.0	\$225.0
SUBTOTAL	\$2,124.8	\$3,649.0	\$2,118.0	\$3,552.0

### Urban Resource Partnership

New York City	\$471.0	\$510.0	\$671.5	\$400.0
Chicago, IL	\$0.0	\$265.0	\$250.0	\$250.0
East St. Louis, IL	\$0.0	\$250.0	\$250.0	\$250.0
Philadelphia, PA	\$0.0	\$250.0	\$250.0	\$250.0
Boston, MA	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$200.0
Buffalo, NY	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$50.0
SUBTOTAL	\$471.0	\$1,275.0	\$1,421.5	\$1,400.0

TOTAL	\$12,155.6	\$13,439.1	\$11,480.4	\$12,556.8
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### Notes:

\* State - All funds not identified in the three other categories (Federal Program & Assistance, Special Projects & Congressional Initiatives, and URP).

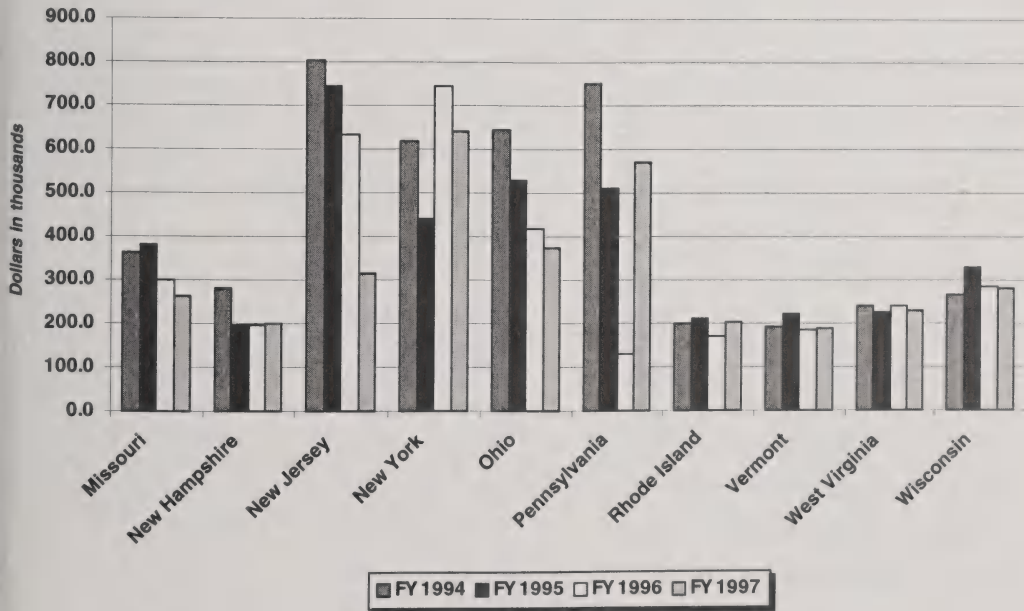
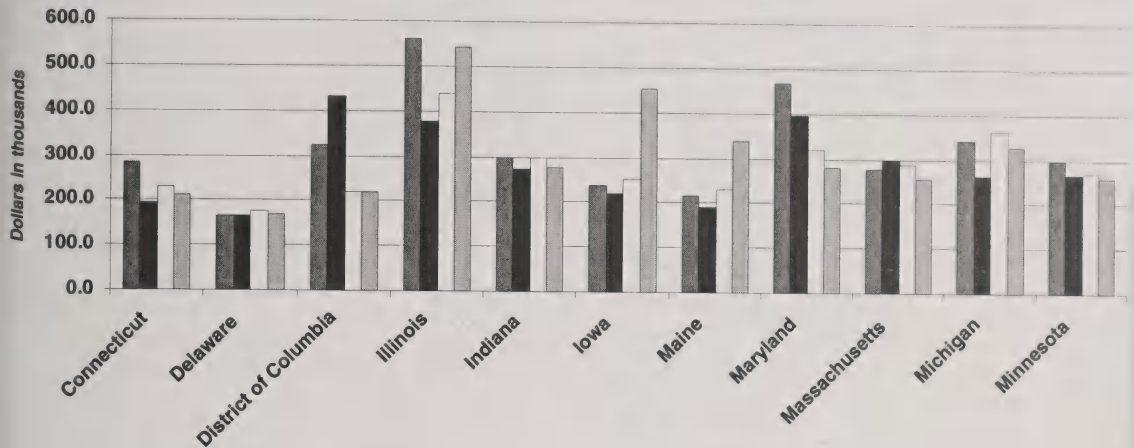
\*\* The Federal Program & Federal Financial Assistance - Support cost. Outside NA State Payment, other payments and common services.

\*\*\* Special Projects - University of Massachusetts and Morris Arboretum.



# ACHIEVEMENTS REPORT

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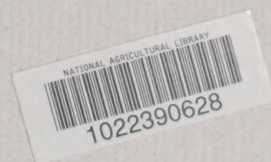
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